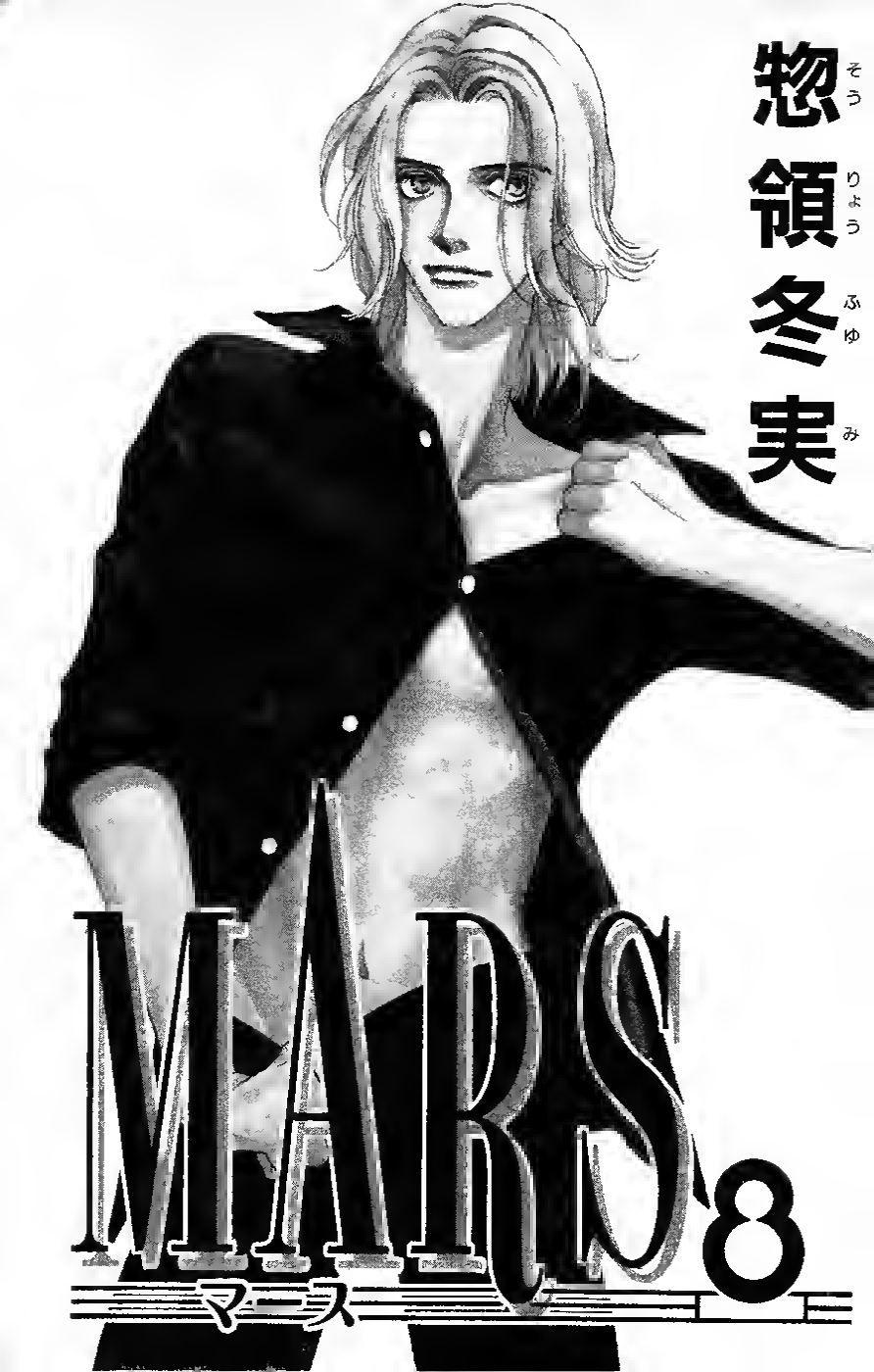
MARS

8

by Fuyumi Soryo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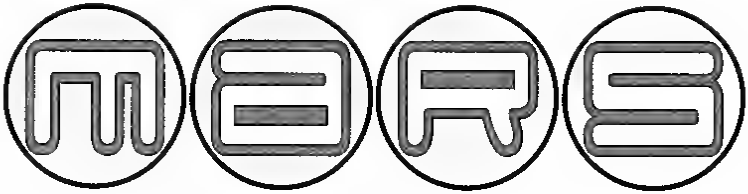
MARS
8
マース



Volume 8

By Fuyumi Soryo

TOKYOPOP®

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MARS

LEGEND OF MARS

Rei Kashino
A high school student who's into Kira's paintings. His twin brother Sei died recently.

Tatsuya
Rei's friend, who's known Kira since junior high.

The story until now...

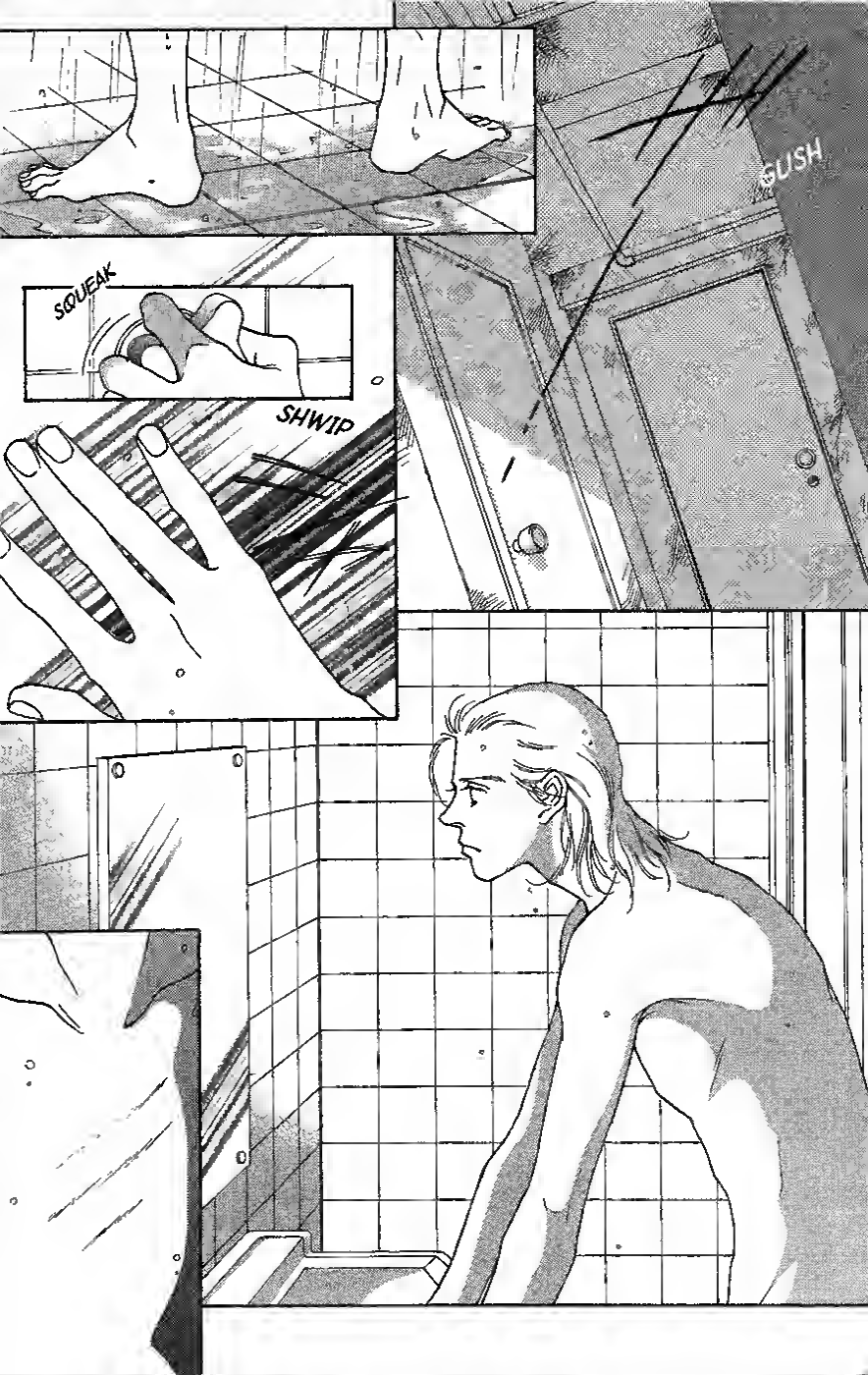
Kira falls for Rei when she sees him kissing a statue of Mars in the art studio. Meanwhile, Rei finds himself drawn to Kira's sketch of a mother and child. Hoping to put aside the darkness in their hearts, they start dating. However, when Masao shows up, things start to feel darker than ever. Masao, who killed someone two years ago, was in love with Rei's reckless side, so when he finds out Kira is bringing light into Rei's life, he tries to kill her, too. Rei comes to her rescue, but in the process, he gets a little freaked about how much he and Masao are alike. Kira tries to reassure Rei that he and Masao are different and remind him of the strength of their love. But then the past she kept hidden for so long comes back to haunt her, and she warns Rei not to touch her.

Kira Aso
She won first prize in an art show for her painting of Rei, the guy she loves. Somehow Masao knows about her secret past.

Masao Kinshima
A new student who is infatuated with Rei. After starting some trouble, he gets expelled.

SO PLEASE DON'T START HATING ME.
DON'T...
HATE ME...

DOES REI KNOW YET?


SQUEAK
SHWIP
SUSH

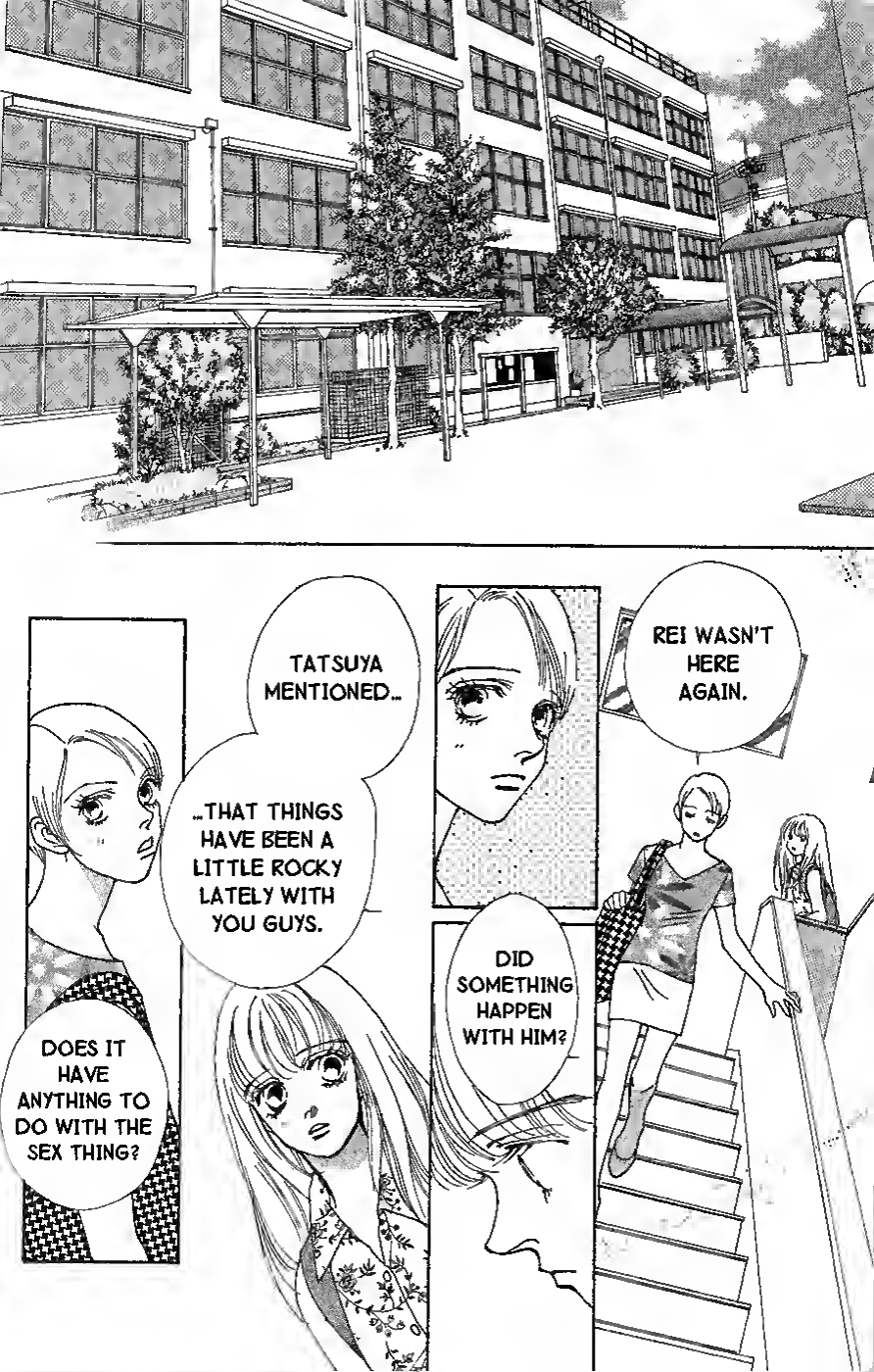
NO...
DON'T TOUCH ME!

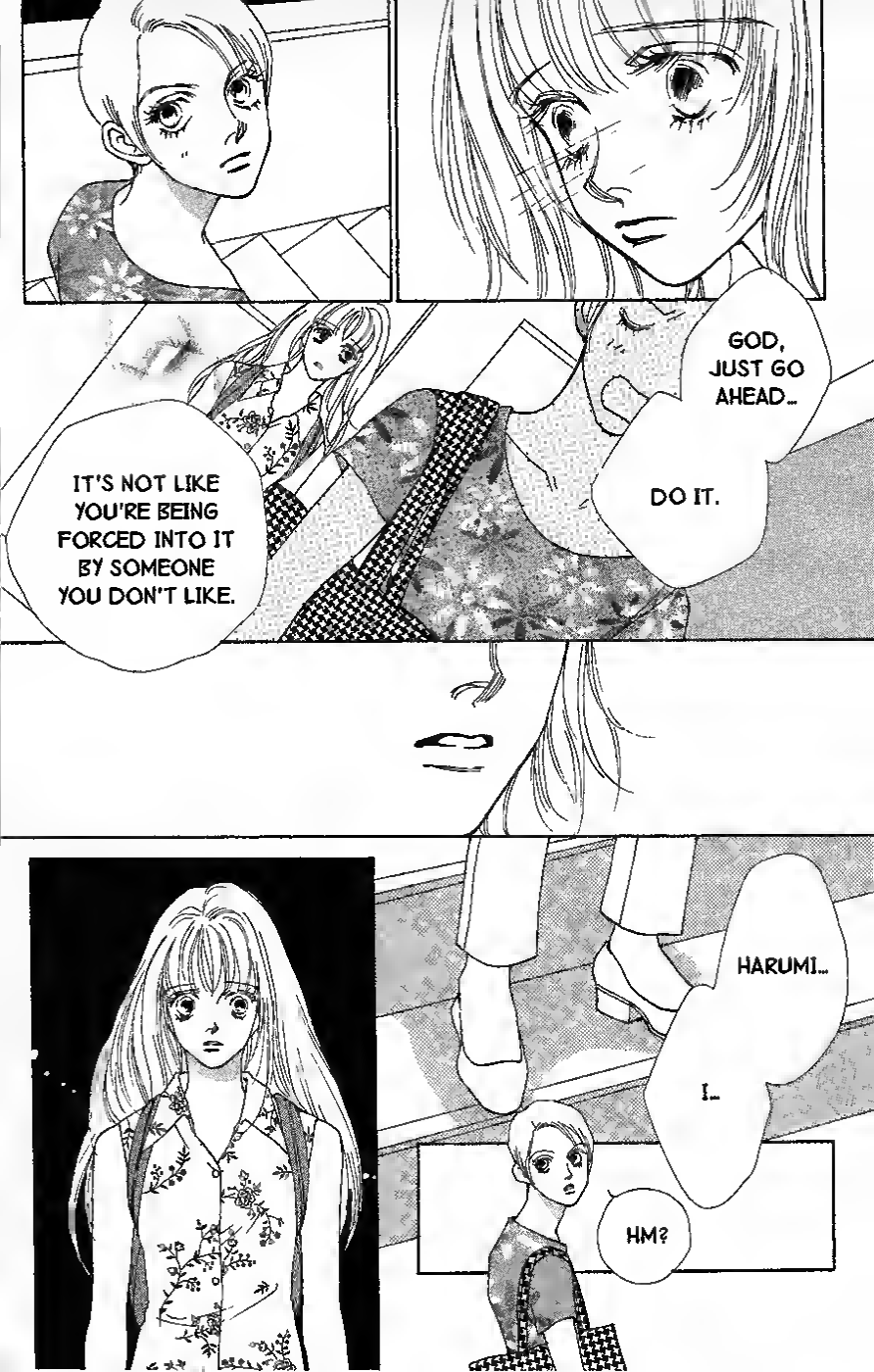
Ball's House
REI! OVER HERE.

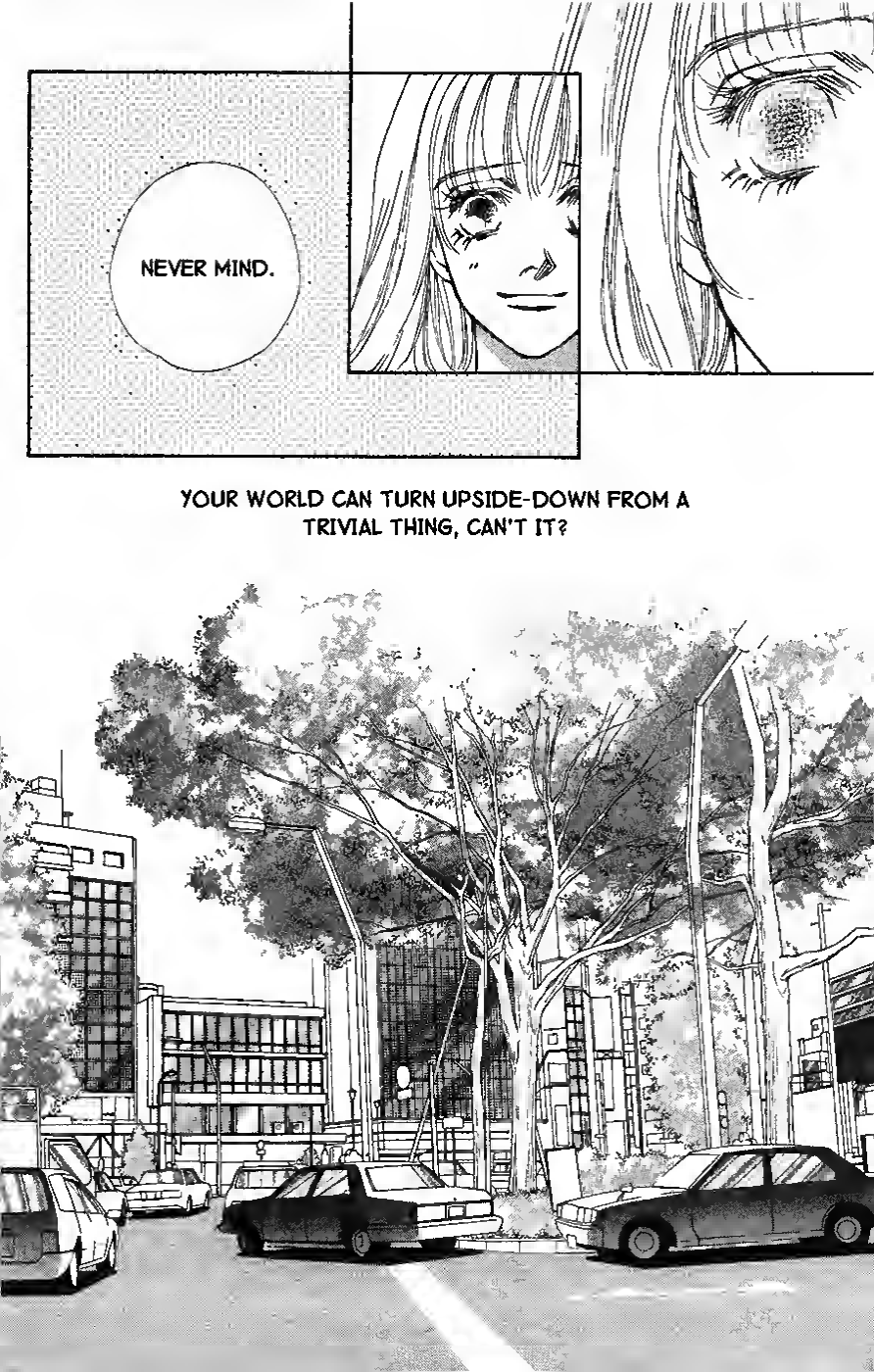
HI...
COFFEE, PLEASE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
I DON'T SEE YOU FOR A WHILE AND YOU SUDDENLY WANT TO HANG OUT?
IT'S ABOUT KIRA.
WHAT WAS SHE LIKE IN JUNIOR HIGH?
!
WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN..
YOU SAID BEFORE...
..THAT KIRA DOESN'T LIKE GUYS.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT NOW. DID SHE HATE GUYS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?
BUT NOW SHE'S GOING OUT WITH YOU, SO WHY BRING IT UP?
YEAH, I SAID THAT..

UMM...
HOW WAS SHE...
I WAS IN THE SAME CLASS AS KIRA IN SEVENTH GRADE...
...THEN WE WERE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES, THEN WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS AGAIN IN NINTH GRADE...
SHE SEEMED A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM HOW SHE WAS IN SEVENTH GRADE...
HOW DID SHE SEEM DIFFERENT?
HM...HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
SHE WAS ALWAYS QUIET...
...AND NOT THAT SOCIAL.
BUT SHE USED TO LAUGH WITH HER FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN WHEN SHE FIRST STARTED.
DURING NINTH GRADE, THOUGH, IT WAS LIKE SHE DIDN'T SMILE OR LAUGH AT ALL.

DURING THE FOLK DANCING PART OF SPORTS DAY, SHE STARTED CRYING BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO HOLD HANDS WITH THE BOYS.
ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE NEAR HER...
GUYS, ESPECIALLY.
SHE WAS PRETTY NORMAL GOING INTO EIGHTH GRADE,
BUT THEN SHE GOT SUDDENLY STUBBORN.
BUT WHY ARE YOU ASKING ABOUT THIS?

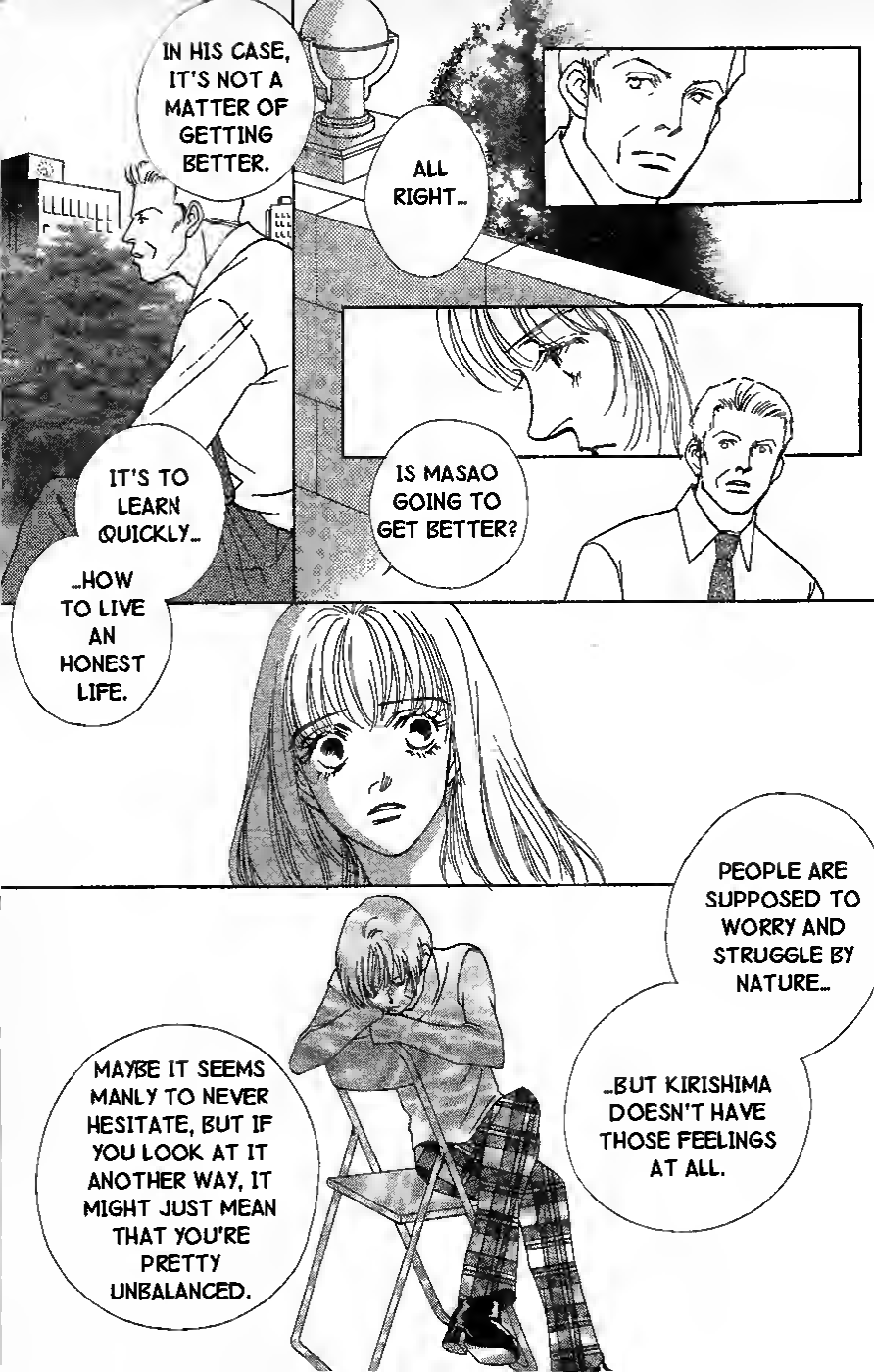

REI WASN'T HERE AGAIN.
TATSUYA MENTIONED..
..THAT THINGS HAVE BEEN A LITTLE ROCKY LATELY WITH YOU GUYS.
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SEX THING?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH HIM?


GOD, JUST GO AHEAD...
DO IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE BEING FORCED INTO IT BY SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.
HARUMI...
I...
HM?


NEVER MIND.
YOUR WORLD CAN TURN UPSIDE-DOWN FROM A TRIVIAL THING, CAN'T IT?

I HAVE YOU AND TATSUYA AND HARUMI, BUT...
MASAO ONLY HAD YUJI AOKI.
IT WAS THE WORST POSSIBLE MEETING...
THE WORST POSSIBLE MEETING...
OFFICER...?
PAT
!
JUMP

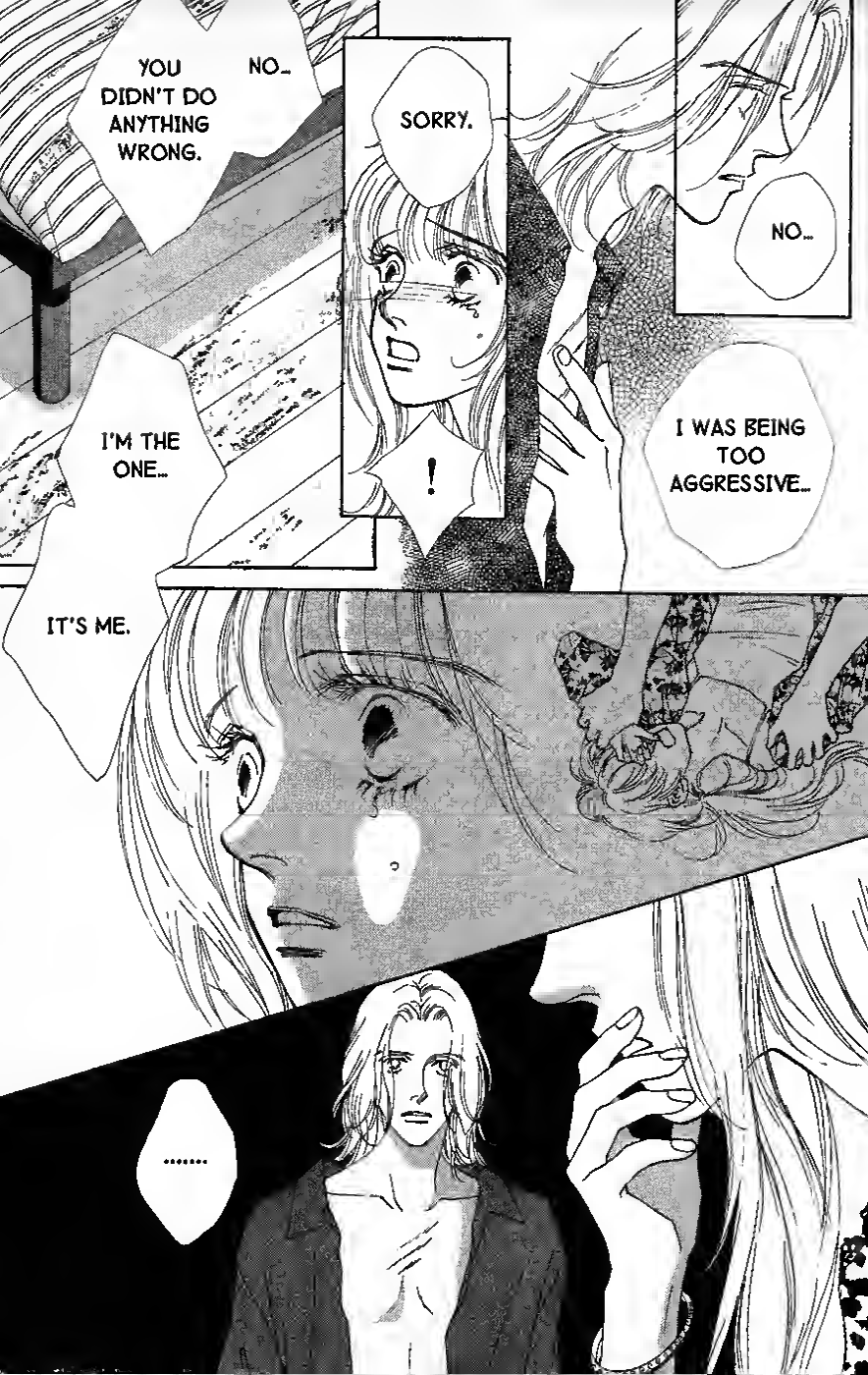
HERE.
I'M SORRY I SCARED YOU.
I WAS ON MY WAY TO YOUR HOUSE WHEN I SAW YOU.
TO MY HOUSE?
YOU... I HEARD YOU WERE ASSAULTED BY MASAO KIRISHIMA?
HE'S ADMITTED TO THAT HIMSELF.
IF YOU WANT, YOU COULD FILE A BODILY HARM CHARGE AGAINST HIM.
NO.
IT'S OVER NOW.

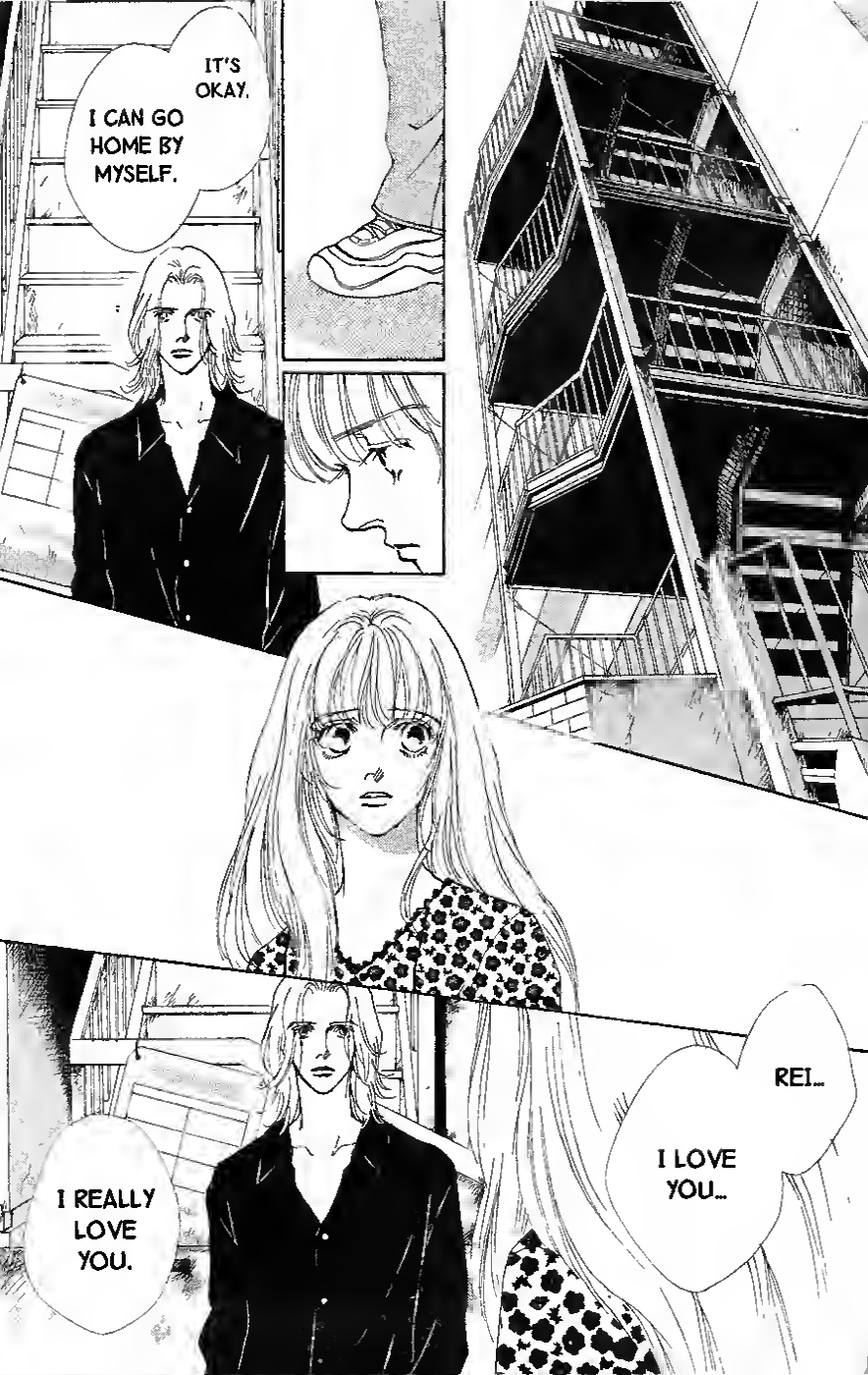

IN HIS CASE, IT'S NOT A MATTER OF GETTING BETTER.
ALL RIGHT...
IS MASAO GOING TO GET BETTER?
IT'S TO LEARN QUICKLY...
...HOW TO LIVE AN HONEST LIFE.
PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO WORRY AND STRUGGLE BY NATURE...
...BUT KIRISHIMA DOESN'T HAVE THOSE FEELINGS AT ALL.
MAYBE IT SEEMS MANLY TO NEVER HESITATE, BUT IF YOU LOOK AT IT ANOTHER WAY, IT MIGHT JUST MEAN THAT YOU'RE PRETTY UNBALANCED.

STRUGGLING AND GOING WITHOUT IS WHAT MAKES PEOPLE GROW.
IT'D BE NICE IF KIRISHIMA LEARNS HOW TO DO THAT, BUT..
REI THINKS..
..HE MIGHT BE JUST LIKE MASAO.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
HE KNOWS THE RIGHT WAY TO LIVE.
TRUE, THERE'S A LOT IN HIS PAST, BUT I KNOW HE'LL BE ABLE TO GET BEYOND ALL THAT.
I'D LIKE KIRISHIMA TO FORGET HIS PAST AND MOVE ON.

KIRA?
GASP

UH...
I...
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

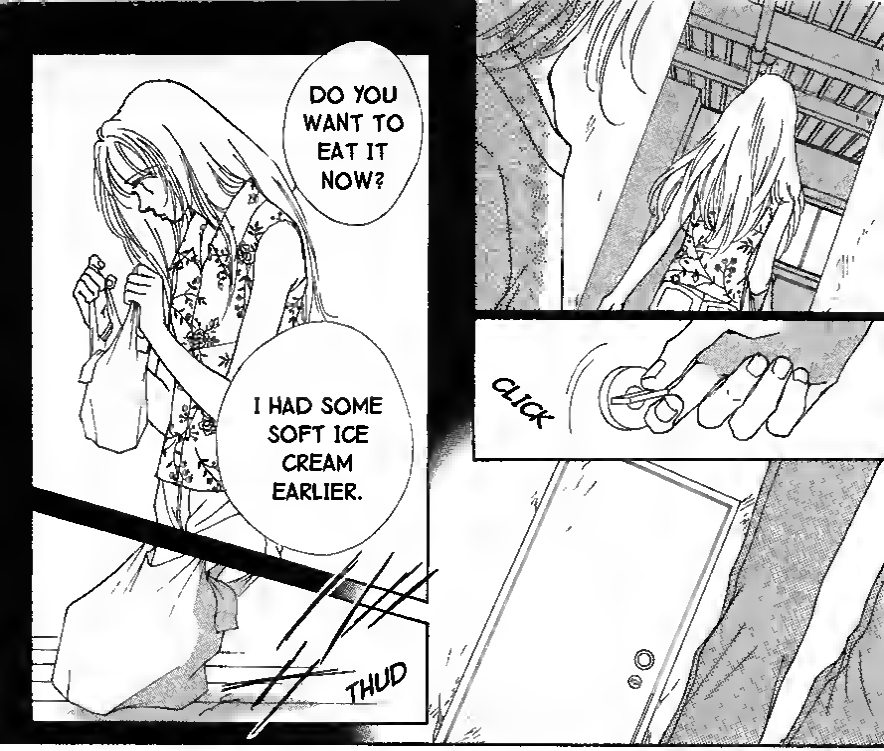

YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
NO..
SORRY.
!
NO..
I'M THE ONE..
I WAS BEING TOO AGGRESSIVE..
IT'S ME.
.....

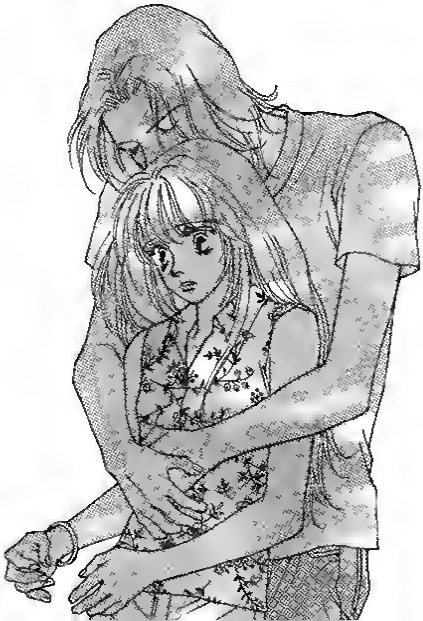

IT'S OKAY.
I CAN GO HOME BY MYSELF.
REI...
I LOVE YOU...
I REALLY LOVE YOU.

WHEN SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS..
..EVERYONE TELLS YOU TO FORGET ABOUT IT.
BUT..
YOU ALL SAY THE SAME THING.
..I DON'T THINK YOU CAN FORGET THAT EASILY.

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PRETEND YOU'VE FORGOTTEN..
..BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE CAN COMPLETELY FORGET.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
1: 会いたい
部屋で待ってる
POCKET BELL
I WANT TO SEE YOU.
I'LL BE AT HOME.

WHAT'S UP? TO WANT TO SEE ME ALL OF SUDDEN..
MMM..
I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOUR FACE.
OH, I WONDERED IF SOMETHING HAPPENED SINCE YOU WANTED ME TO MEET YOU HERE.
I BOUGHT SOME ICE CREAM ON THE WAY OVER- LET'S EAT IT.


DO YOU WANT TO EAT IT NOW?
I HAD SOME SOFT ICE CREAM EARLIER.
THUD
CLICK

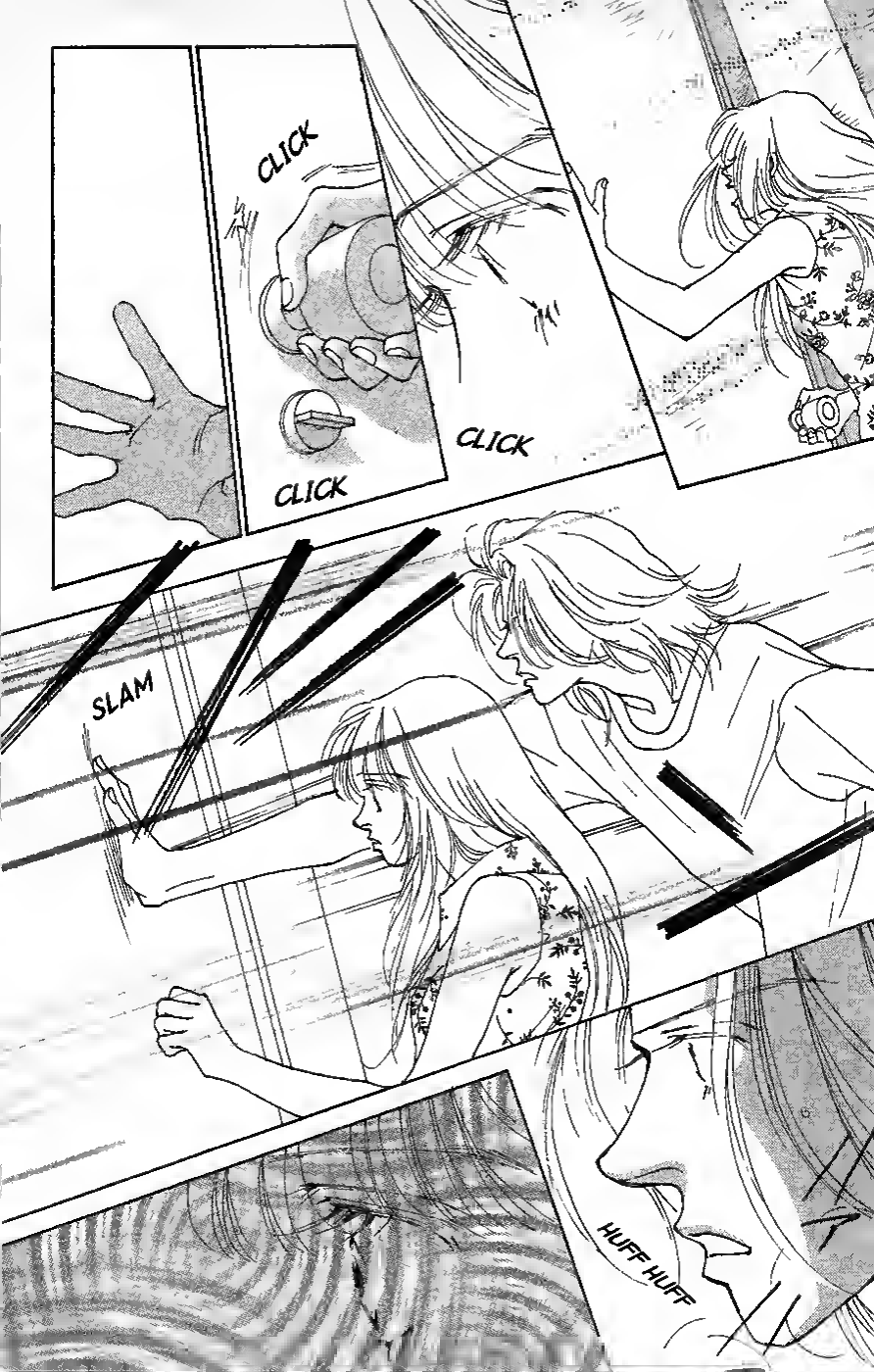


REI!?
WHAT?
STOP! LET ME GO!

THUD
AAAAAH!
NO!
DON'T BE SUCH A PRUDE.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.
I CAN'T PUSH HIM OFF.

STOP!
YOU LOVE ME, DON'T YOU?
STOP IT, REI!
THEN DO AS I SAY.
DO AS I SAY!
STOP STRUGGLING.
THAT'S A GOOD GIRL!

NOOOOOO!
KIRA!


CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
SLAM
HUFF HUFF

AAAAAAHHHH!
AAAAAAAHHHHH!
AAAAAAAHHHHHH!

KIRA!
NOOOOOO!
I'M SORRY.
I WON'T DO IT ANYMORE.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING.

WHO RAPED YOU?
WHO...
...WHO WAS IT?

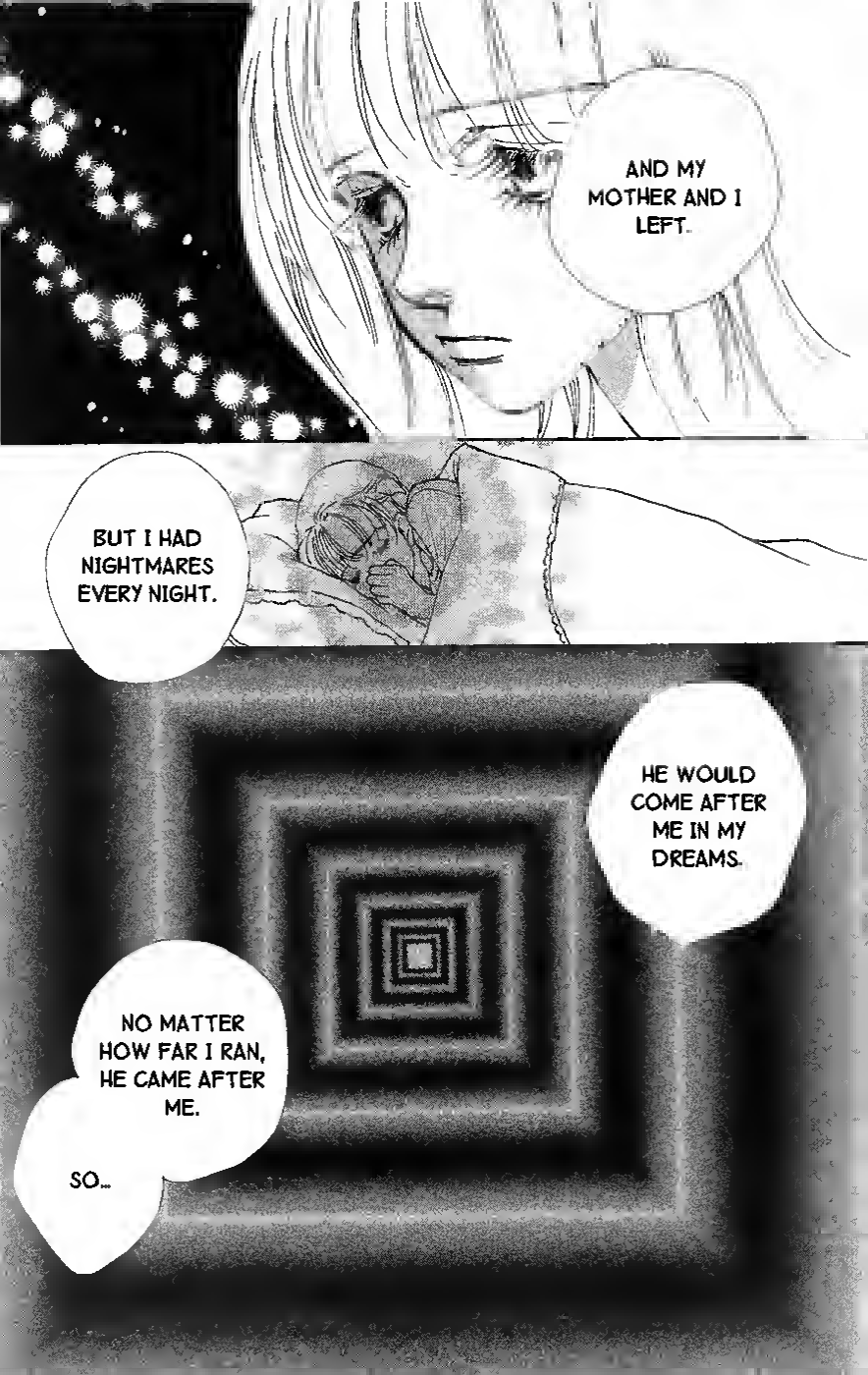
DID YOU TELL THE COPS?
WHY NOT?
WHO WAS IT?
DO YOU KNOW?

MY...
...MY FATHER.
HOW...

BUT YOU SAID YOUR FATHER DIED...
NOT MY REAL FATHER!
THAT MAN ISN'T REALLY MY FATHER!
HE PRETENDED TO BE NICE SO HE COULD GET CLOSE TO ME AND MY MOTHER.
BUT HE BETRAYED MY MOTHER AND GOT... AND GOT ME...

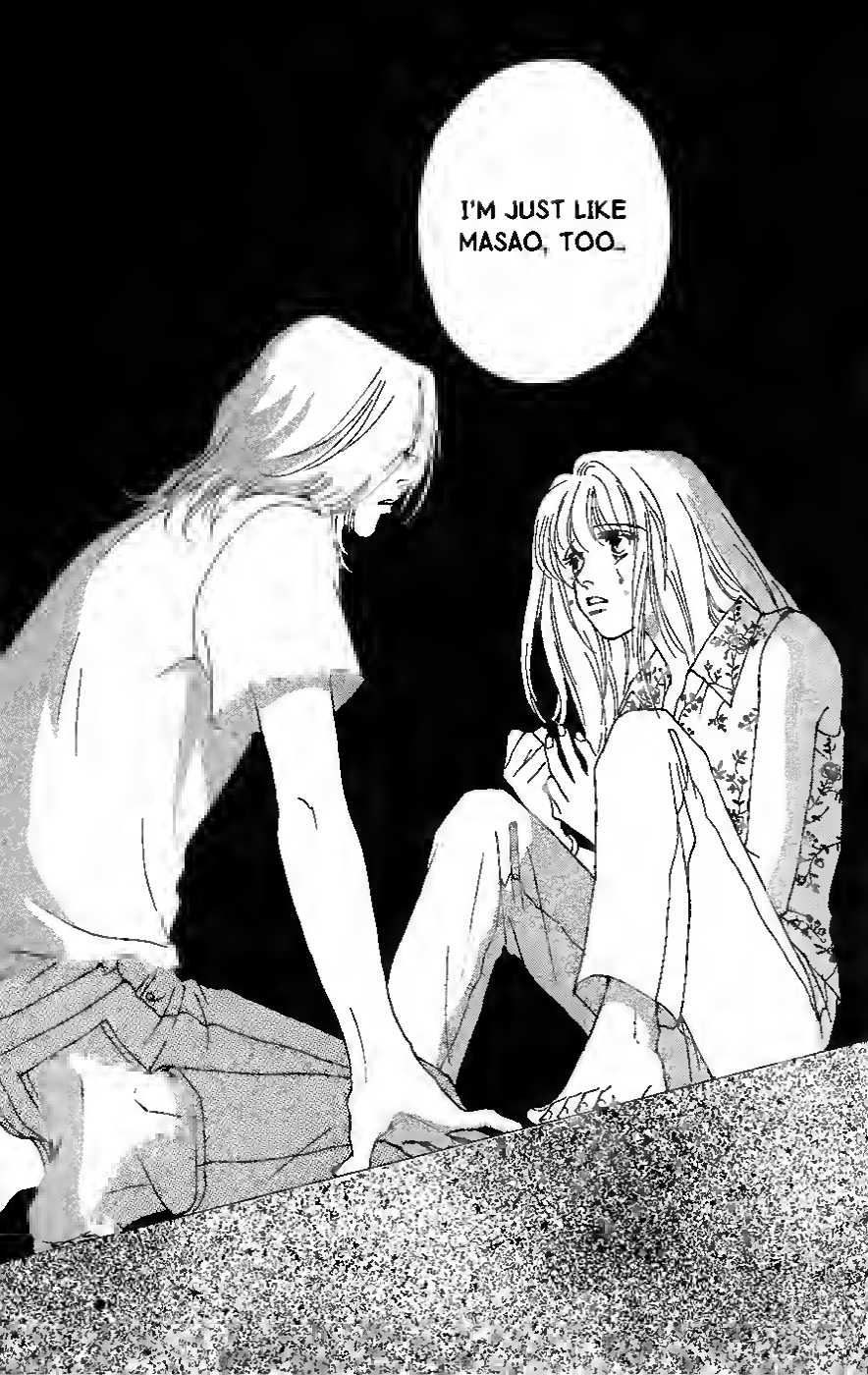
YOUR MOTHER...
...WAS REMARRIED?
HE TOLD US HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF US.
HE SAID WE HAD NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I WAS IN EIGHTH GRADE.
I WAS SMALLER THAN I AM NOW, AND I COULDN'T PUT UP ANY RESISTANCE.
I WAS JUST SCARED.
I COULDN'T TELL MY MOTHER AND I CRIED ALL THE TIME.
BUT BEFORE I WENT INTO NINTH GRADE, MY MOTHER FIGURED IT OUT.


AND MY MOTHER AND I LEFT.
BUT I HAD NIGHTMARES EVERY NIGHT.
HE WOULD COME AFTER ME IN MY DREAMS.
NO MATTER HOW FAR I RAN, HE CAME AFTER ME.
SO...

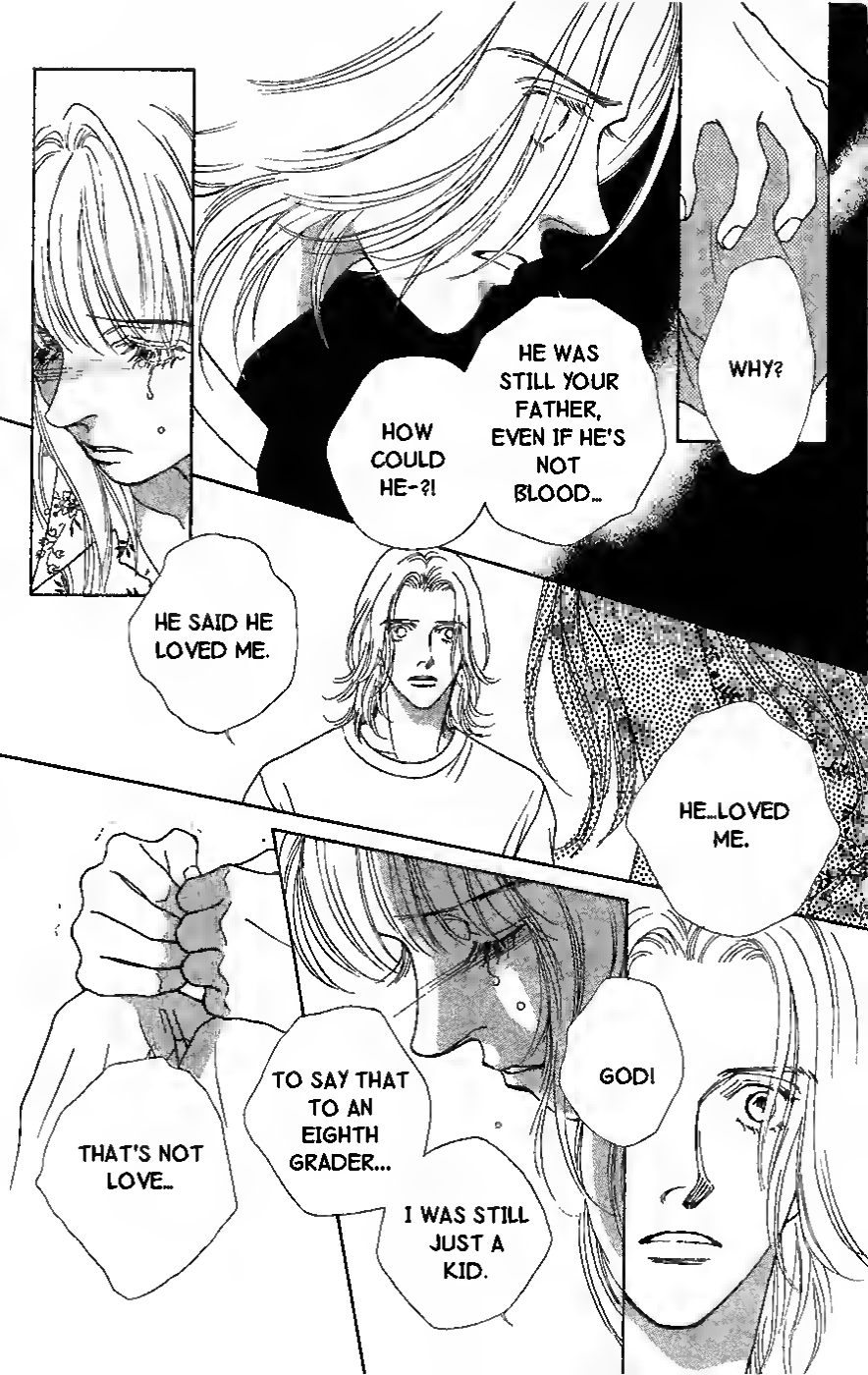
SO I WOULD KILL HIM.
IN MY HEAD..
..IN THE MOST AWFUL WAYS.

I WOULD BUTCHER HIM UNTIL HE DIDN'T EVEN LOOK HUMAN ANYMORE.


I'M JUST LIKE MASAO, TOO...

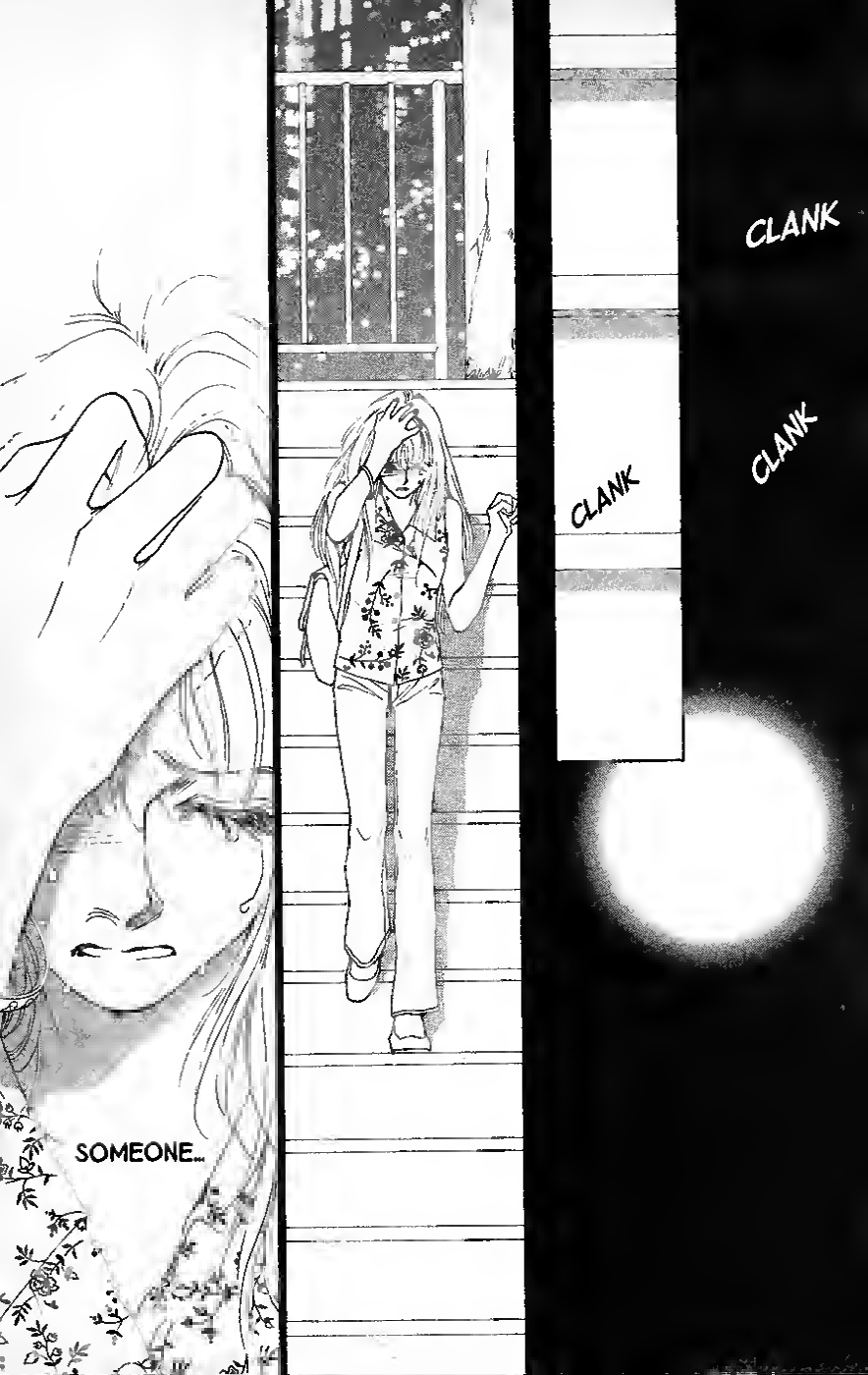
I'M EXACTLY LIKE HIM.
I JUST CAN'T ACT ON MY THOUGHTS LIKE HE CAN.

AFTER EVERY-THING HAP-PENED WITH MY FATHER,
I STARTED KILLING EVERYONE I HATED IN MY HEAD.
I DID THE SAME THING WITH MR. YOSHIOKA...
I COULDN'T SAY IT OUT LOUD, BUT I WAS THINKING TERRIBLE THINGS.
I FELT LIKE IF I DIDN'T, SOMETHING BAD WOULD HAPPEN TO ME...
...THAT I SUDDENLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STAND UP, EVEN.


WHY?
HE WAS STILL YOUR FATHER, EVEN IF HE'S NOT BLOOD...
HOW COULD HE-?!
HE SAID HE LOVED ME.
HE...LOVED ME.
GOD!
TO SAY THAT TO AN EIGHTH GRADER...
THAT'S NOT LOVE...
I WAS STILL JUST A KID.

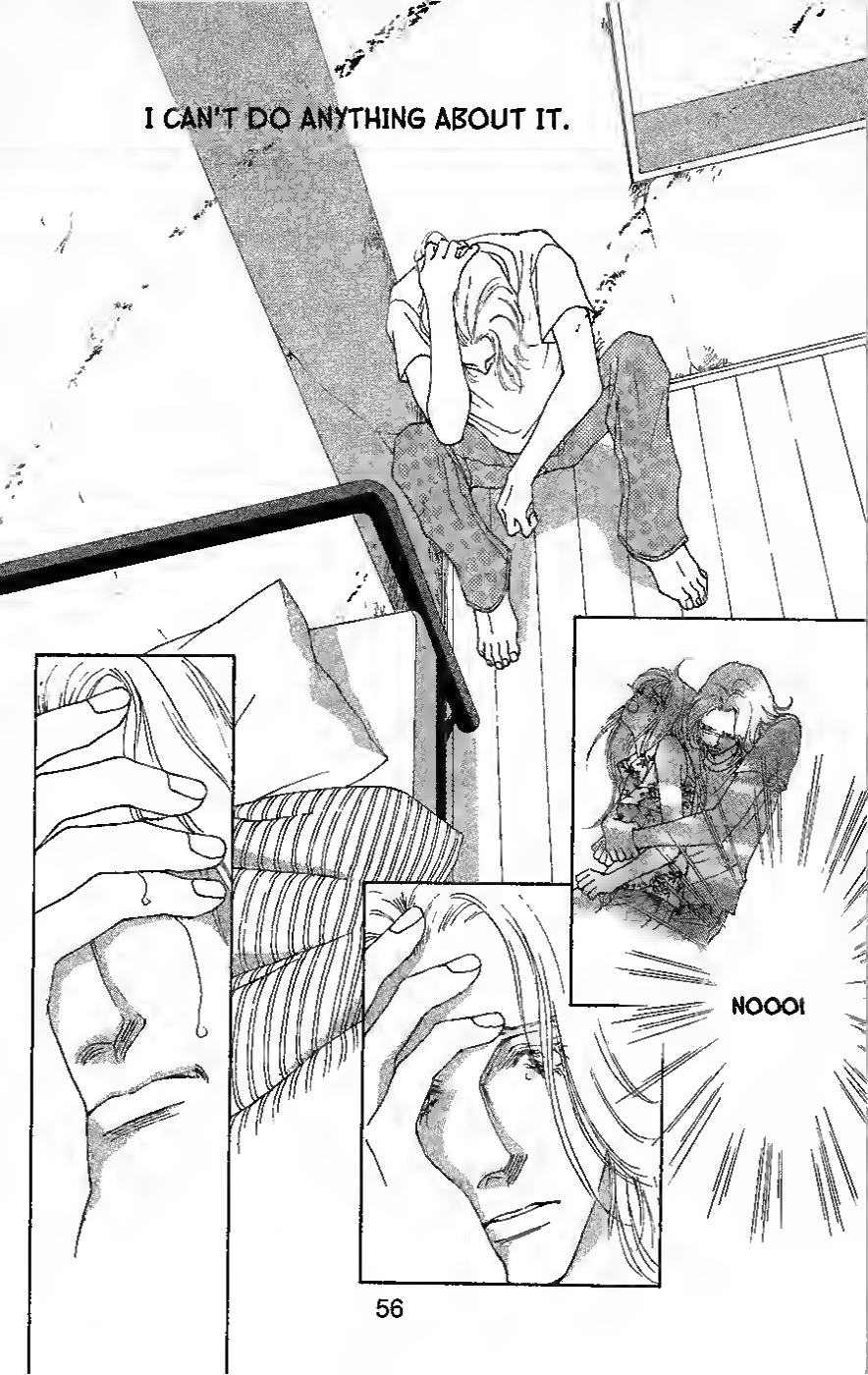
I CAN'T STAND THEM!
THAT'S NOT LOVE AT ALL!
THAT'S NOTHING BUT VIOLENCE!
I HATE THEM!
THAT'S WHY I HATE MEN!

THUNK


CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
SOMEONE...

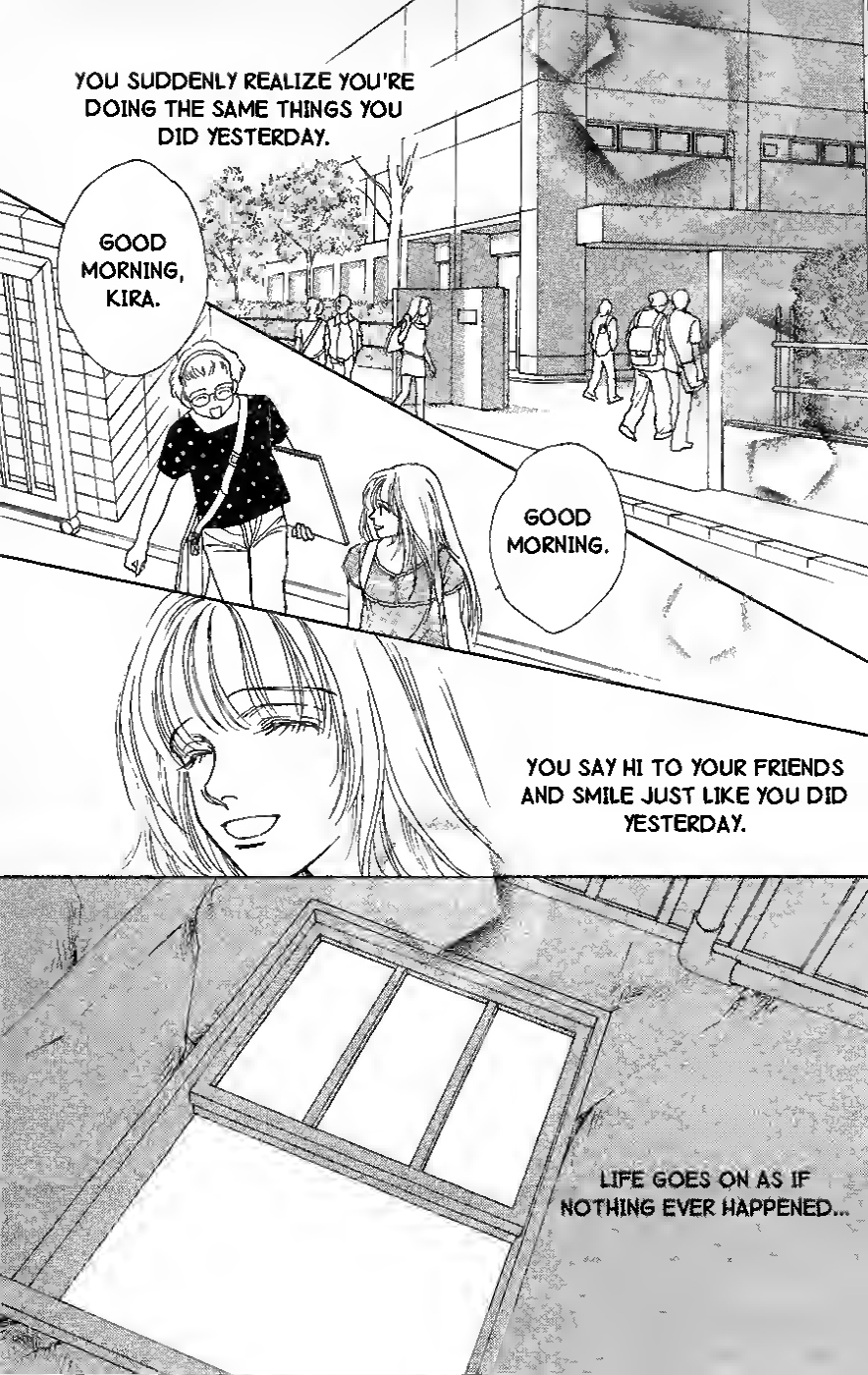
SOMEONE HELP ME...
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT!
KIRA?
WHAT'S WRONG?
TO COME ALL THE WAY TO MY WORK... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

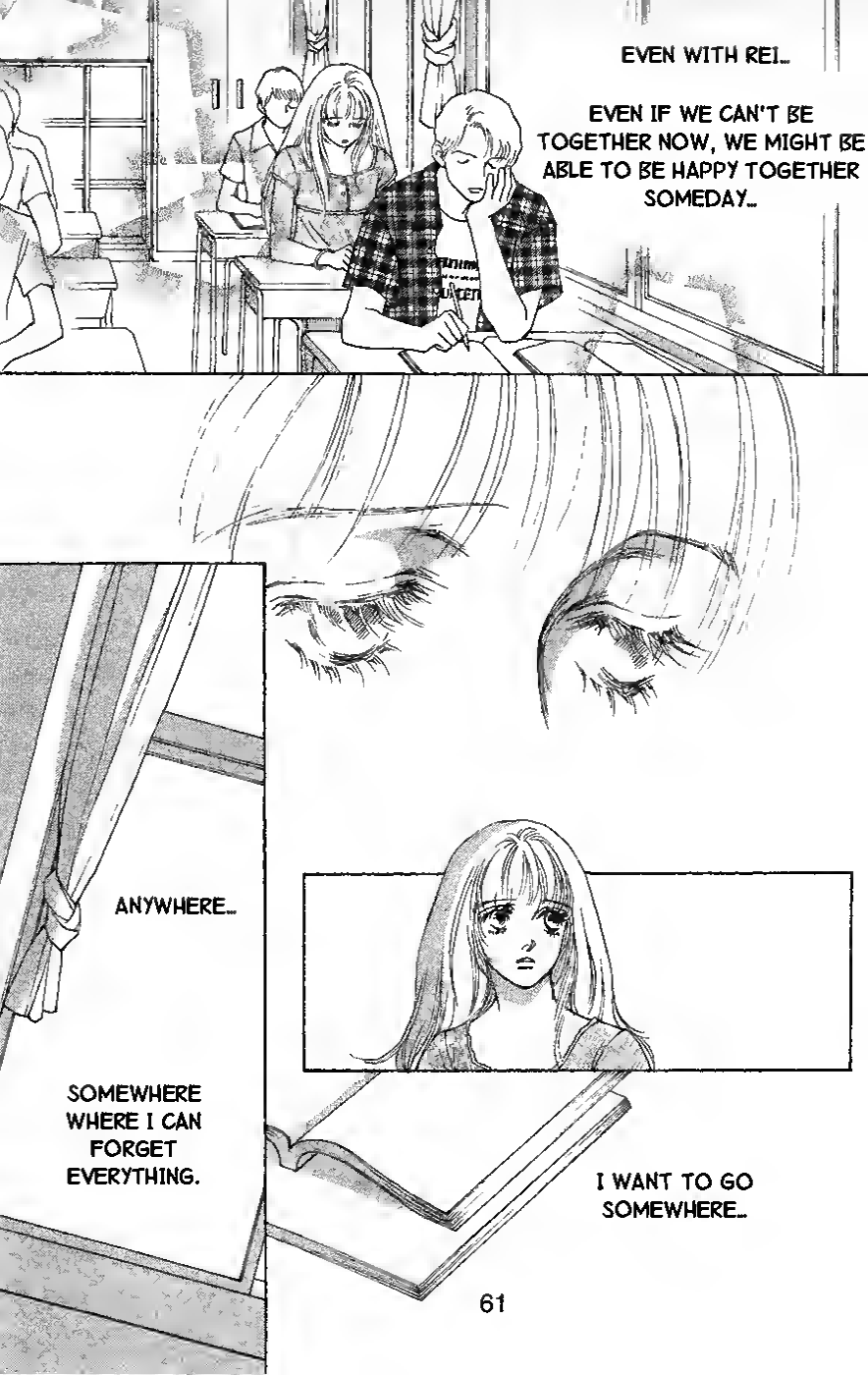
IT...
...MIGHT BE OVER.
ME...AND REI.
NO...
IT'S ME WHO WAS WRONG.
REI DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
KIRA?
REI ISN'T LIKE THAT...
HE'S NOT LIKE THAT MAN.


I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
NOOO!

GOOD MORNING.
I'M SORRY I TOOK OVER YOUR BED.
ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL TODAY?
DON'T EVEN WORRY ABOUT IT!
Ectamen nedue enim
WERE YOU ABLE TO SLEEP?

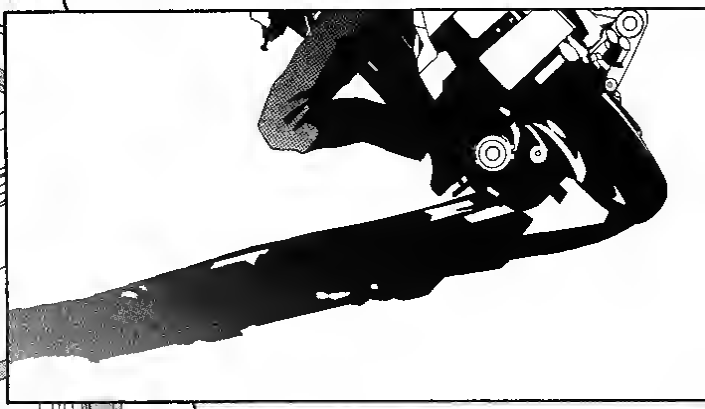
ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH.
I'LL GO HOME AND CHANGE FIRST.
YEAH.
I'M OKAY.
PEOPLE SEEM WEAK, BUT THEY'RE STRONG.
THEY SEEM STRONG, BUT THEY'RE WEAK...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU CRY, YOU STILL HAVE TO SLEEP.
AND YOU EVEN GET HUNGRY.

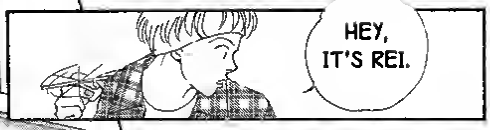

YOU SUDDENLY REALIZE YOU'RE DOING THE SAME THINGS YOU DID YESTERDAY.
GOOD MORNING, KIRA.
GOOD MORNING.
YOU SAY HI TO YOUR FRIENDS AND SMILE JUST LIKE YOU DID YESTERDAY.
LIFE GOES ON AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED...

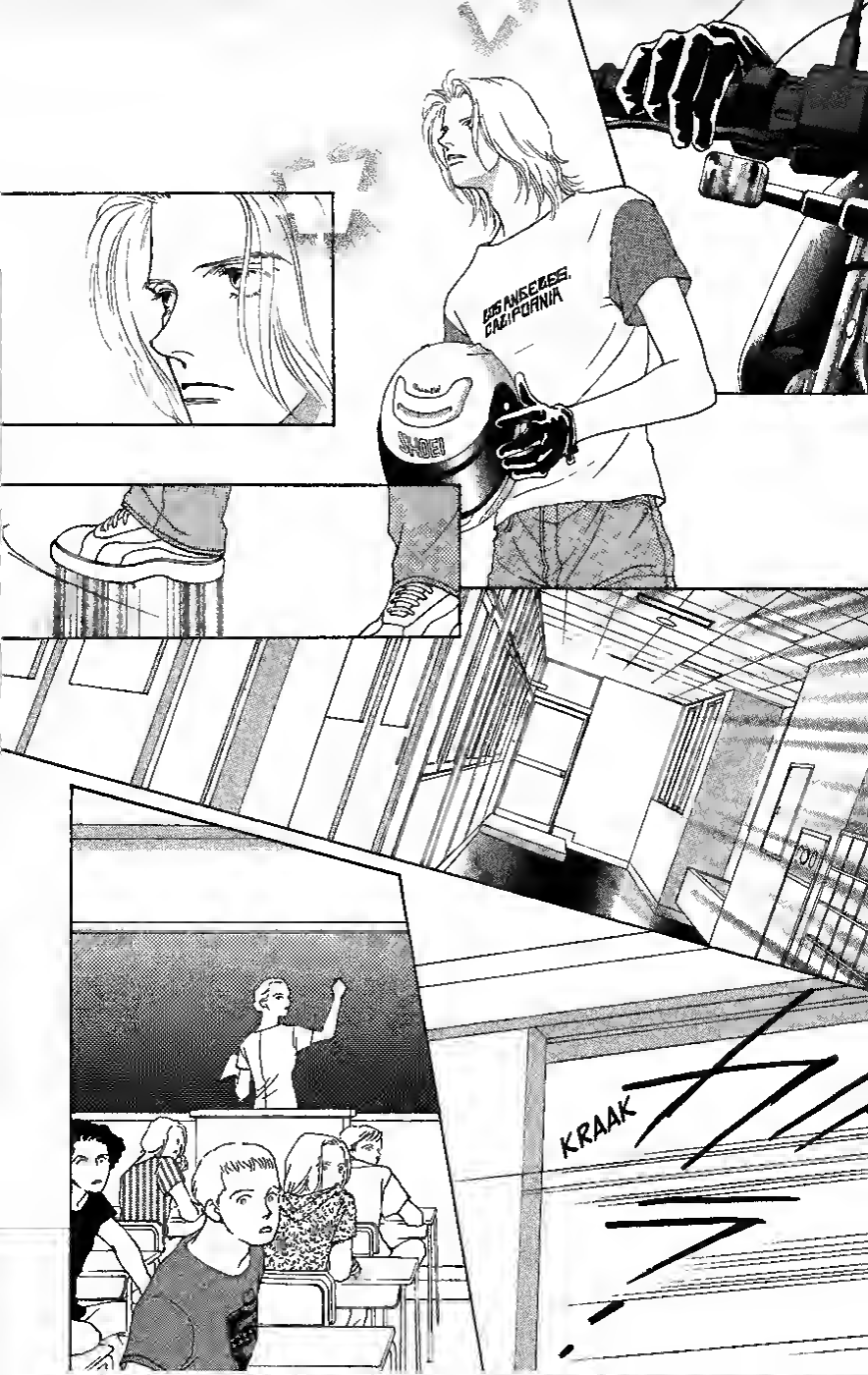

EVEN WITH REI..
EVEN IF WE CAN'T BE TOGETHER NOW, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE HAPPY TOGETHER SOMEDAY..
I WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE..
SOMEWHERE WHERE I CAN FORGET EVERYTHING.
ANYWHERE..

...WHERE I'LL FORGET EVERYTHING

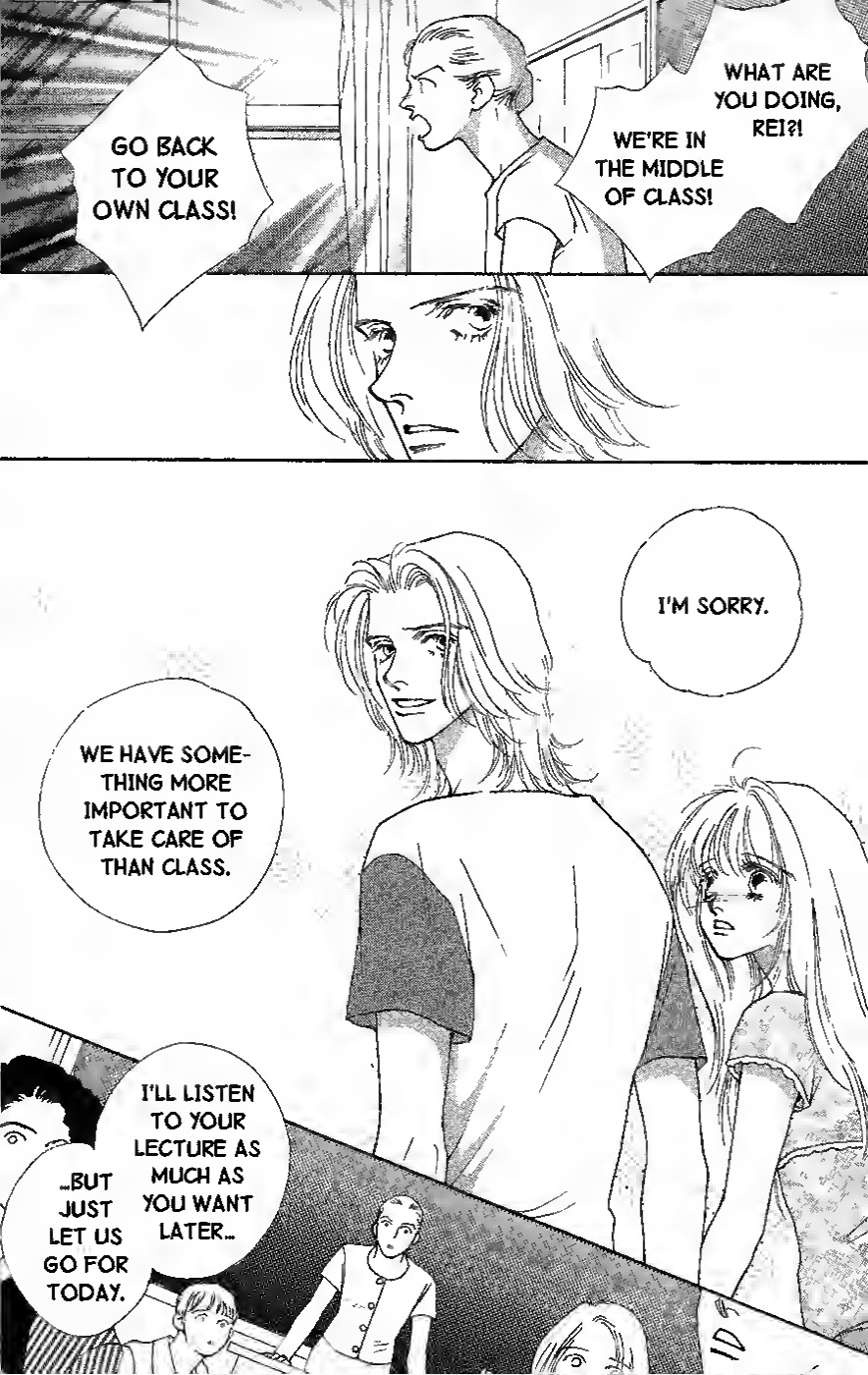
AND BE REBORN.

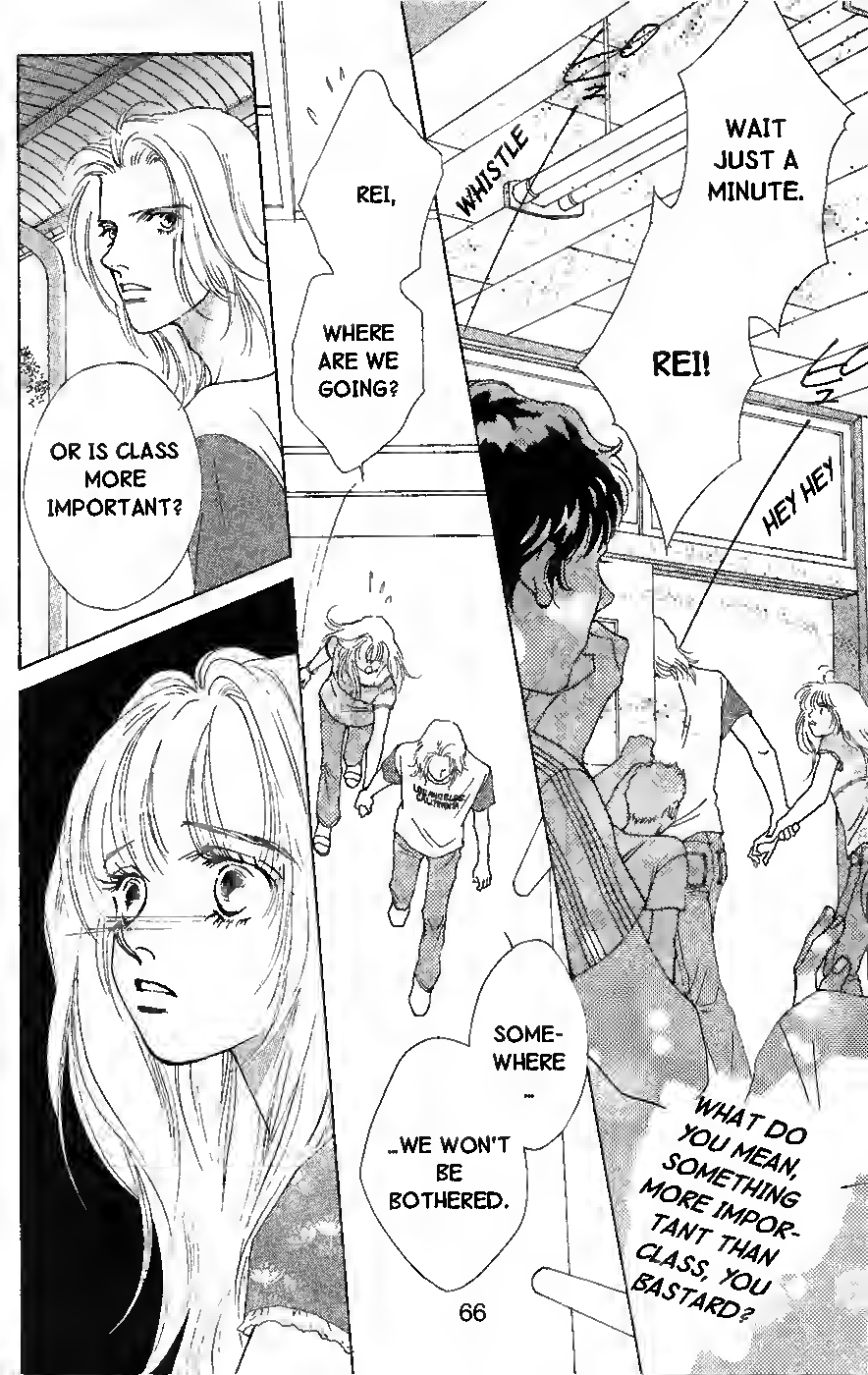





LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
SHOEI
KRAAK

LOS ANGELES. CALIFORNIA
THIS ISN'T YOUR CLASS.
WHAT'S GOING ON, REI?
R...REI!
BUZZ...
KLUNK
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA
GRAB
!


GO BACK TO YOUR OWN CLASS!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, REI?!
I'M SORRY.
WE HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF THAN CLASS.
I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR LECTURE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT LATER..
..BUT JUST LET US GO FOR TODAY.


WAIT JUST A MINUTE.
WHISTLE
REI!
HEY HEY
REI,
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
OR IS CLASS MORE IMPORTANT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN CLASS, YOU BASTARD?
SOMEWHERE ...
...WE WON'T BE BOTHERED.

I WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE...
SOME-WHERE FAR AWAY.

HEEEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, REI?!
IF YOU KEEP JUST DOING WHATEVER YOU WANT, I REALLY WON'T LET YOU GRADUATE!
QUIET!
EVERYONE GET BACK IN YOUR SEATS!
REI...YOU HORN-DOG!
DON'T GO TOO FAST SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE OUT-SIDE?
?

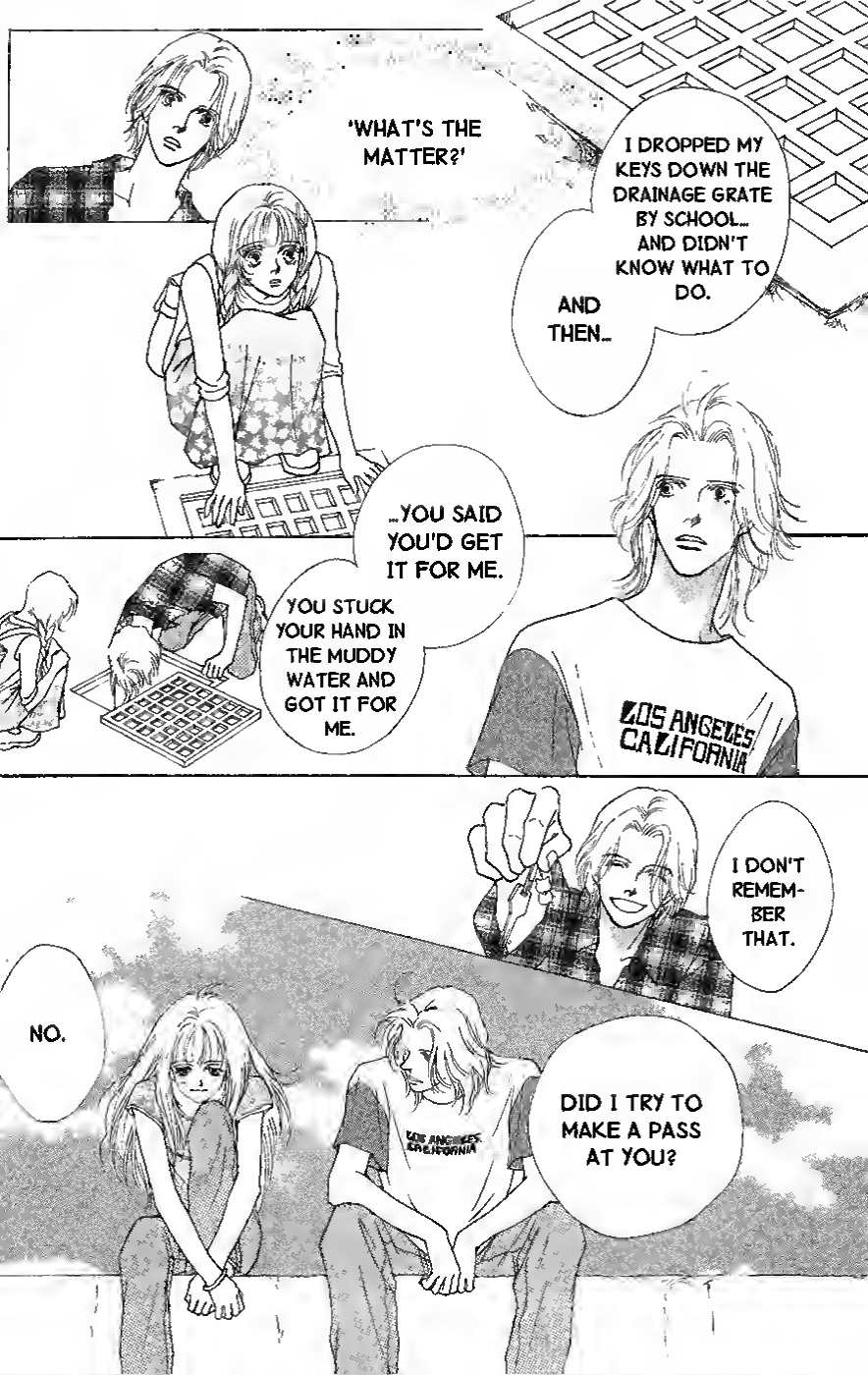
HOLD ON TIGHT!
I'M GONNA GO FAST.
KASHINO!
ASO!
COME BACK HERE! HEY!
REI..?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY BOTH TOOK OFF LIKE THAT!
REI'S REI...
...BUT WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO KIRA?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...
THOSE TWO WILL BOUNCE BACK, RIGHT?
THOSE TWO'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT?

CRASH
YOU CAN'T SEE ME LIKE YOU DID BEFORE,
CAN YOU?
I'M REALLY MESSED UP.
I MAY NOT LOOK DAMAGED..
BUT INSIDE I'M REALLY, REALLY MESSED UP.

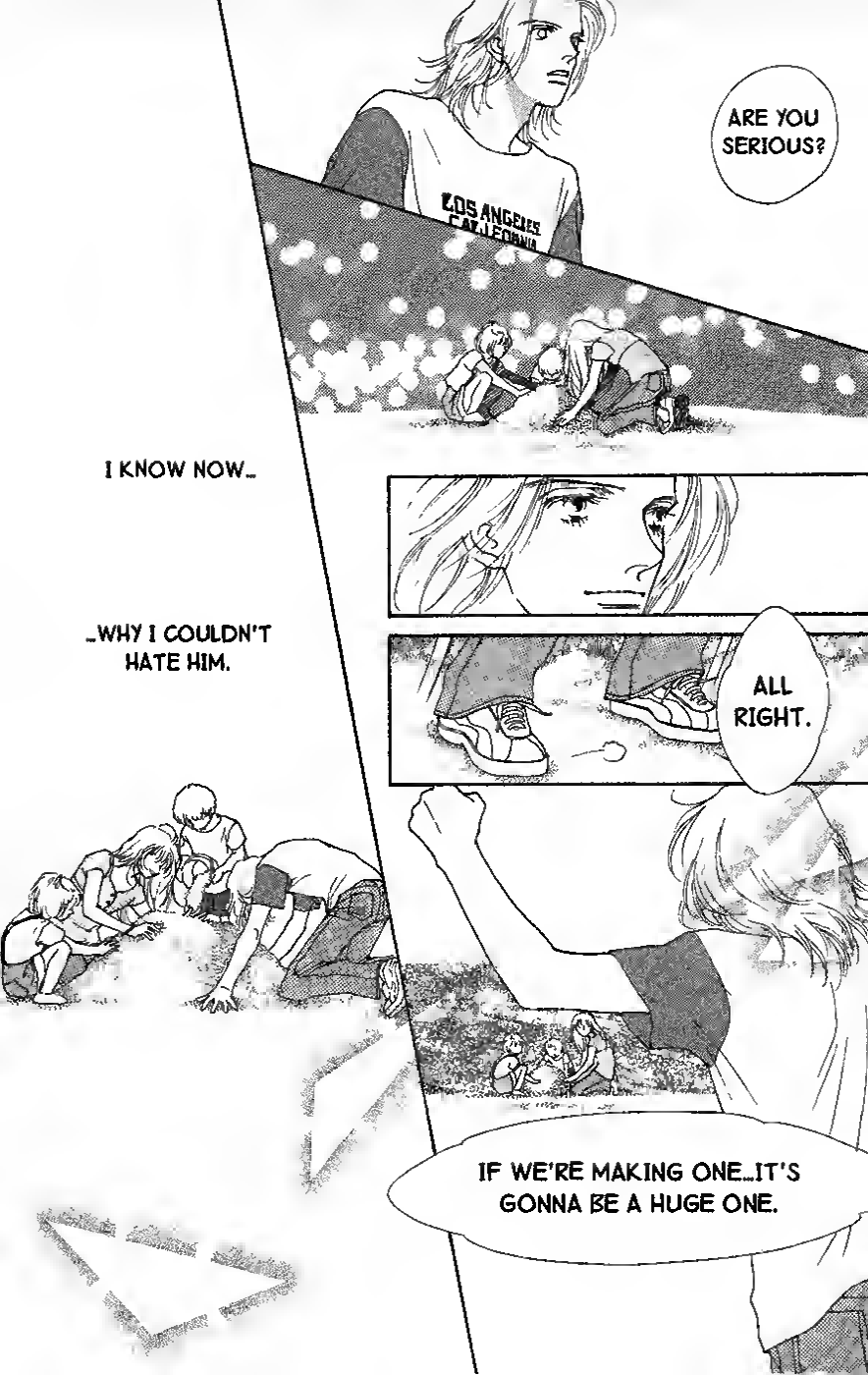
I'VE NEVER RAPED ANYONE...
AND I'M NOT A GIRL...
I COULDN'T REALLY UNDER-STAND.
I WONDER HOW MANY TIMES I WAS KILLED?
BUT I WOULDN'T TELL YOU TO FORGET ABOUT IT.
I CAN AT LEAST UNDERSTAND... THAT YOU CAN'T FORGET ABOUT IT.

NOT EVEN ONCE...
I'VE NEVER ONCE KILLED YOU!
IT'S WEIRD, BUT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME...
...THAT I WAS ABLE TO THINK OF A GUY THAT WAY.
I DID?
YOU MAY NOT REMEMBER THIS, BUT...
...RIGHT WHEN WE FIRST STARTED HIGH SCHOOL, YOU SPOKE TO ME.

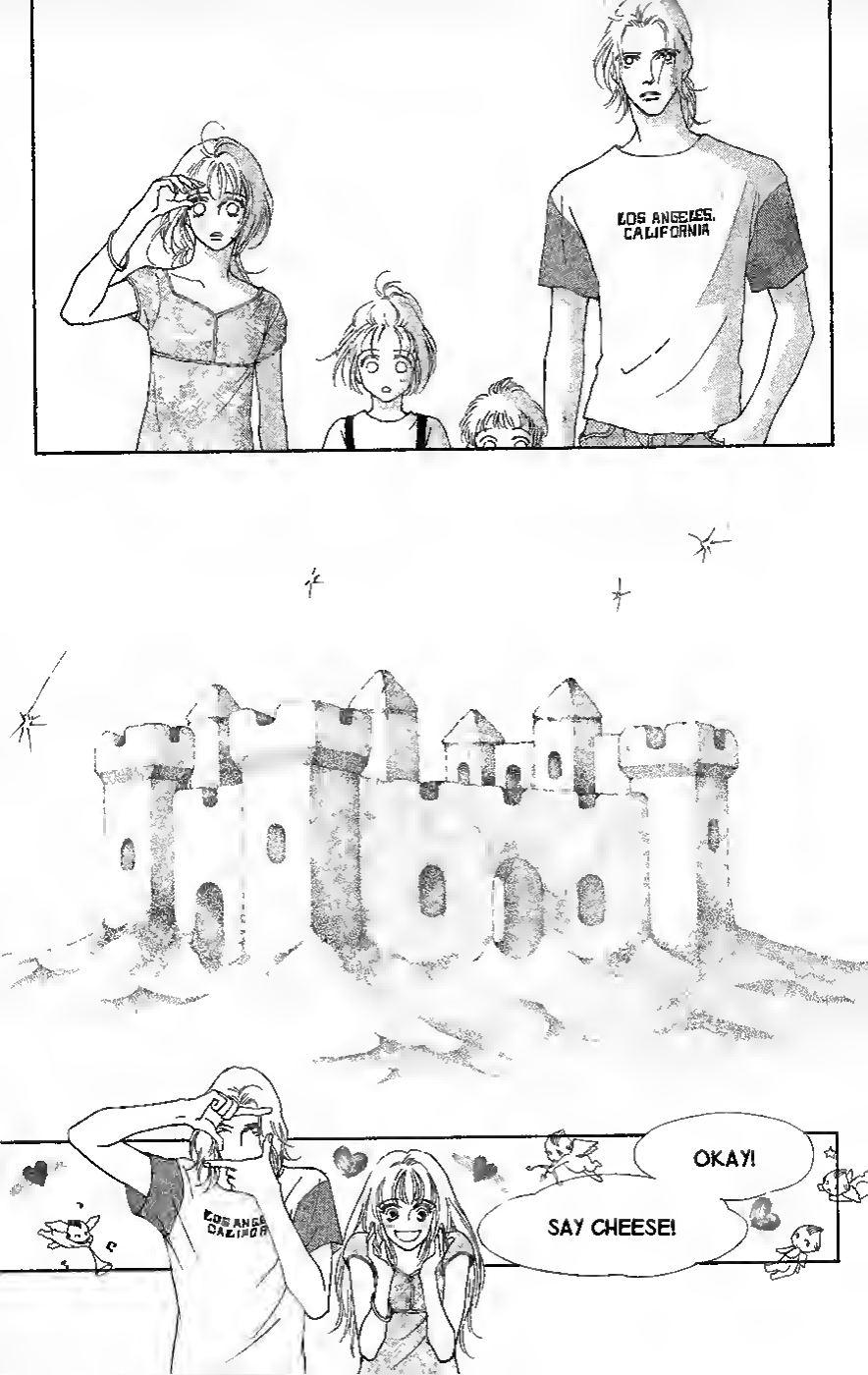

'WHAT'S THE MATTER?'
I DROPPED MY KEYS DOWN THE DRAINAGE GRATE BY SCHOOL... AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
AND THEN...
...YOU SAID YOU'D GET IT FOR ME.
YOU STUCK YOUR HAND IN THE MUDDY WATER AND GOT IT FOR ME.
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA
I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.
NO.
DID I TRY TO MAKE A PASS AT YOU?

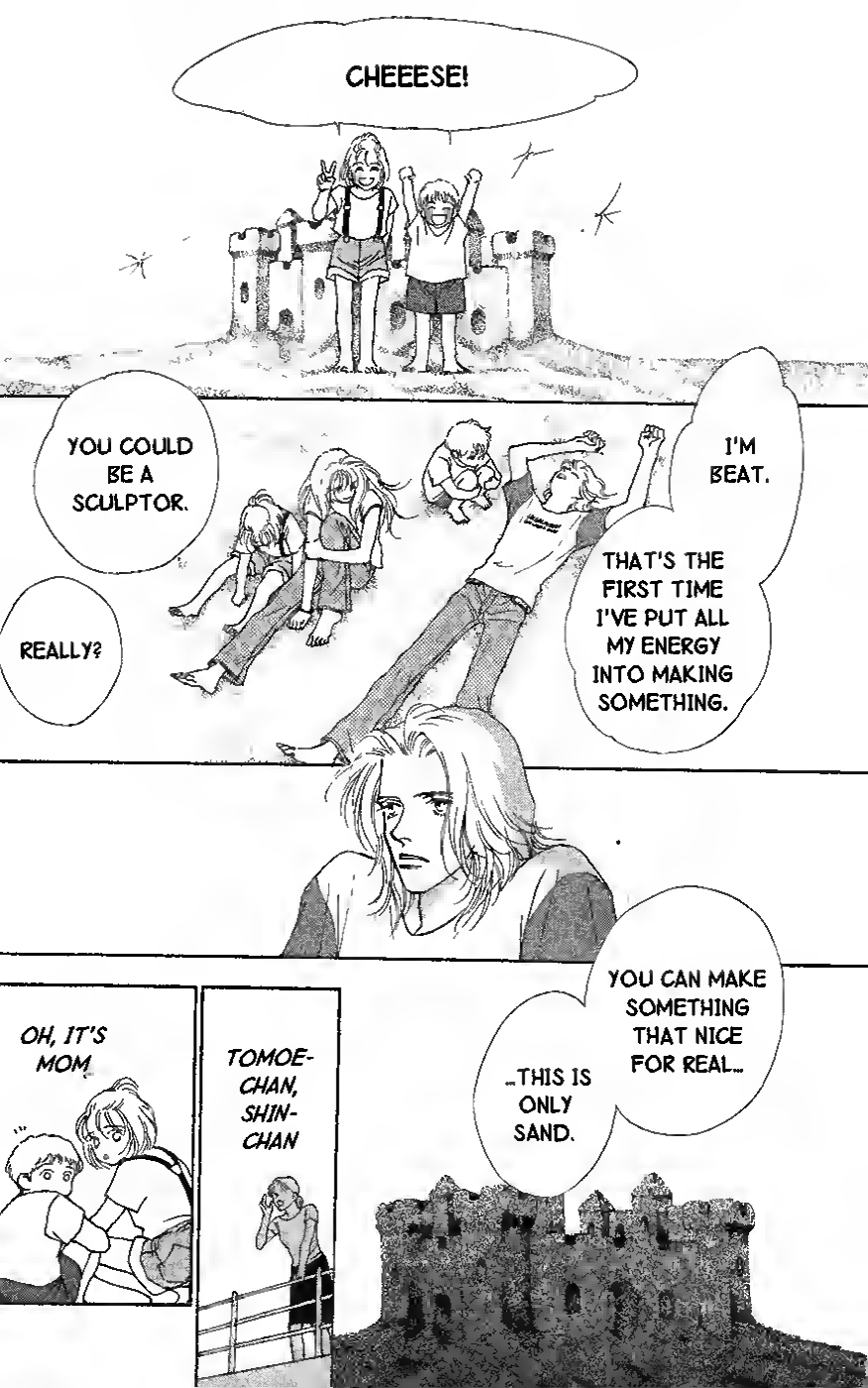
YOU ASKED ME TO LEND YOU MONEY..
!
NO WAY..
REALLY?
CHUCKLE
YOU WALKED AWAY WITH 1000 YEN.
OOHHHH
SO OF COURSE I HAVEN'T PAID YOU BACK.
SHIT
WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER IN THE SCHOOLYARD AFTER THAT..
..BUT YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER MY FACE.
HAHAHA
AFTER THAT, I ALWAYS KEPT AN EYE ON YOU.
BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS WITH A DIFFERENT GIRL AND HAD THE WORST REPUTATION.
EVEN SO, I COULDN'T HATE YOU.
FOR SOME REASON I COULDN'T DISLIKE YOU.

I GUESS THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE.
WAAAAHH
WHAT IS THIS CRAP?
HOW LAME!
STOP IT!
PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO SEE OTHER PEOPLE CRY.
STUPID
.....
HEY, THEY WERE MAKING A SAND CASTLE.
LET'S HELP THEM MAKE A NEW ONE.
!


ARE YOU SERIOUS?
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA
I KNOW NOW..
..WHY I COULDN'T HATE HIM.
ALL RIGHT.
IF WE'RE MAKING ONE...IT'S GONNA BE A HUGE ONE.

IT'S BECAUSE HE KNEW DESPAIR.
HE KNEW THE PAIN OF A WOUND THAT CAN'T BE HEALED.

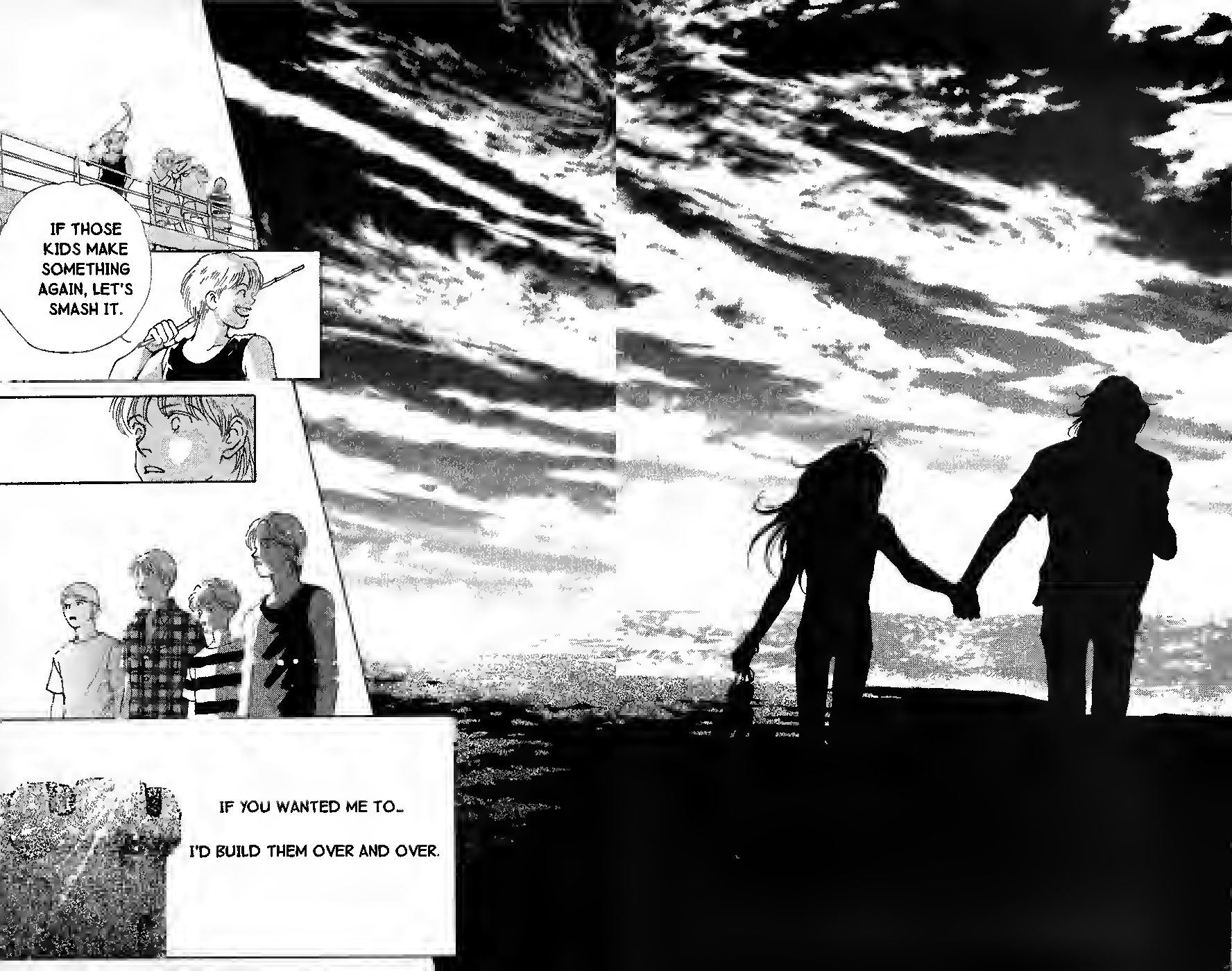

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
OKAY!
SAY CHEESE!


CHEEESE!
YOU COULD BE A SCULPTOR.
REALLY?
I'M BEAT.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE PUT ALL MY ENERGY INTO MAKING SOMETHING.
YOU CAN MAKE SOMETHING THAT NICE FOR REAL...
...THIS IS ONLY SAND.
TOMOE-CHAN, SHIN-CHAN
OH, IT'S MOM.

BYE-BYE!
SEE YOU AGAIN
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA
THOSE KIDS WON'T FORGET TODAY, WILL THEY?
I WONDER.
THEY WON'T FORGET... EVEN IF THE CASTLE DISAPPEARS.
THE MEMORY OF HAVING BUILT A BIG CASTLE WITH A BIG BOY AND A BIG GIRL THAT THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW...
THEY WON'T FORGET THAT.

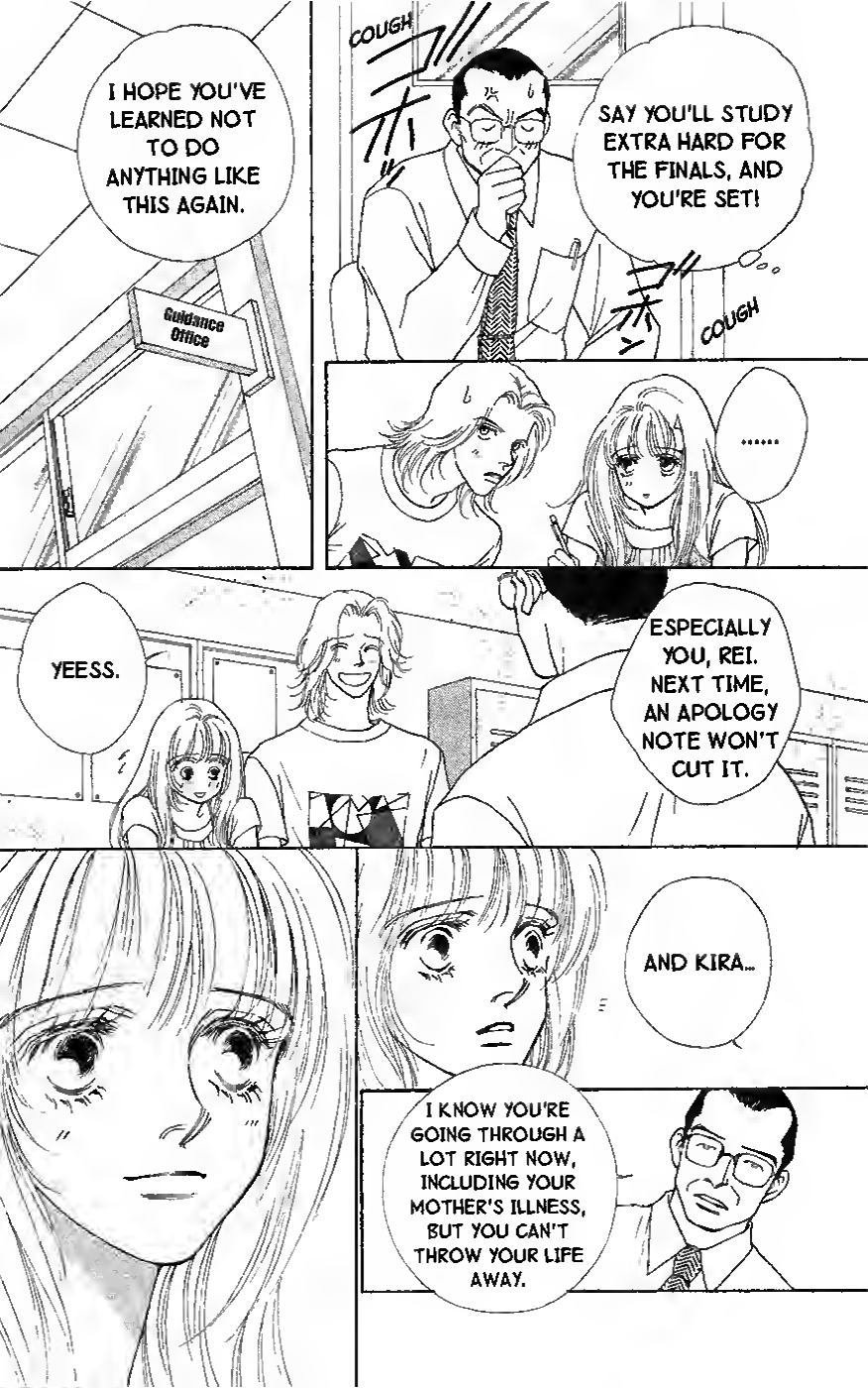
NO MATTER HOW BIG OR GRAND THINGS ARE, THEY GET DESTROYED SOMEDAY.
THERE WON'T BE A SHADOW OF THAT CASTLE AROUND TOMORROW.
IF A CASTLE GETS DESTROYED, YOU JUST BUILD A NEW ONE.
IF YOU WANTED ME TO..
...I'D BUILD THEM OVER AND OVER.

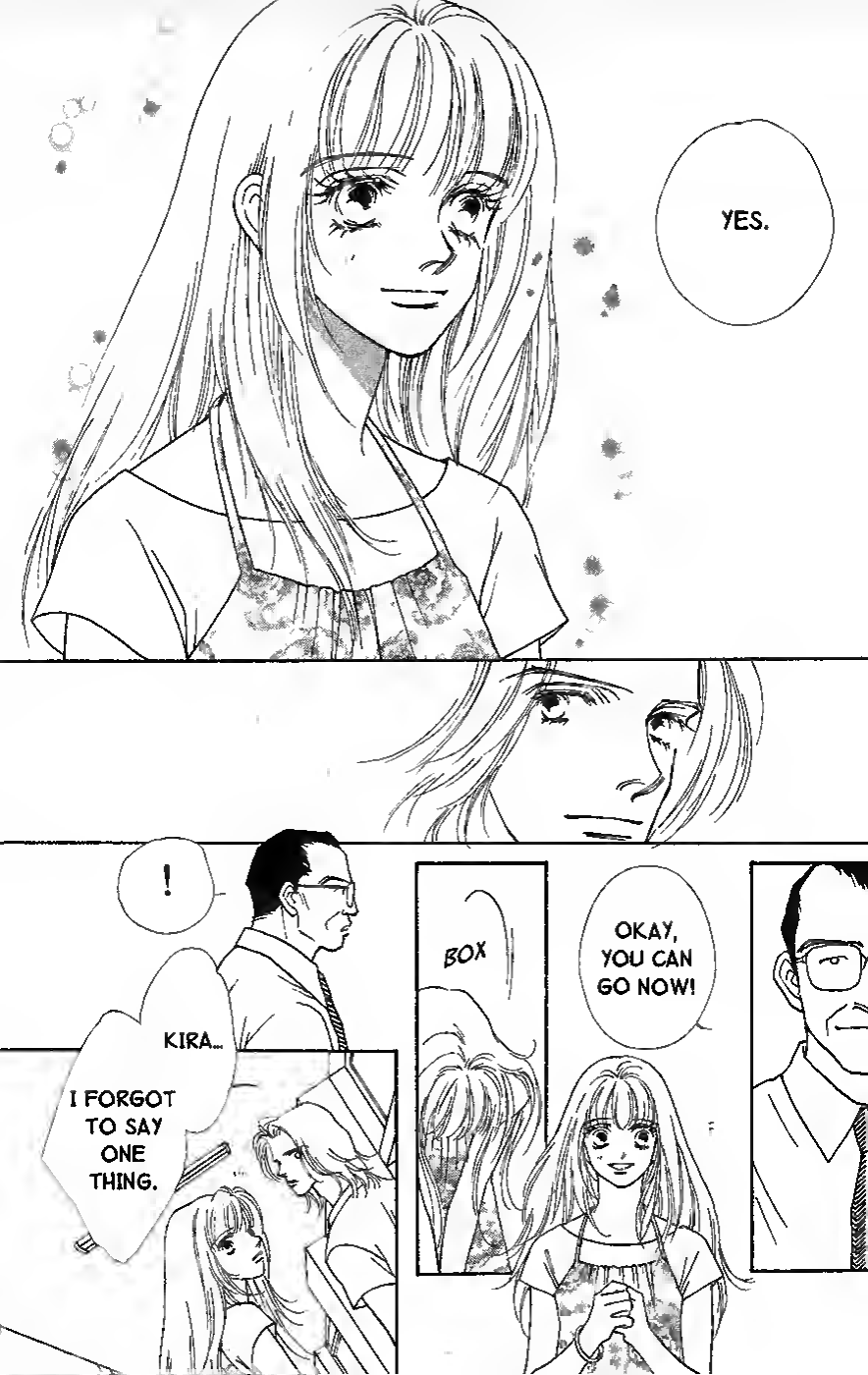
LET'S BUILD THEM TOGETHER.

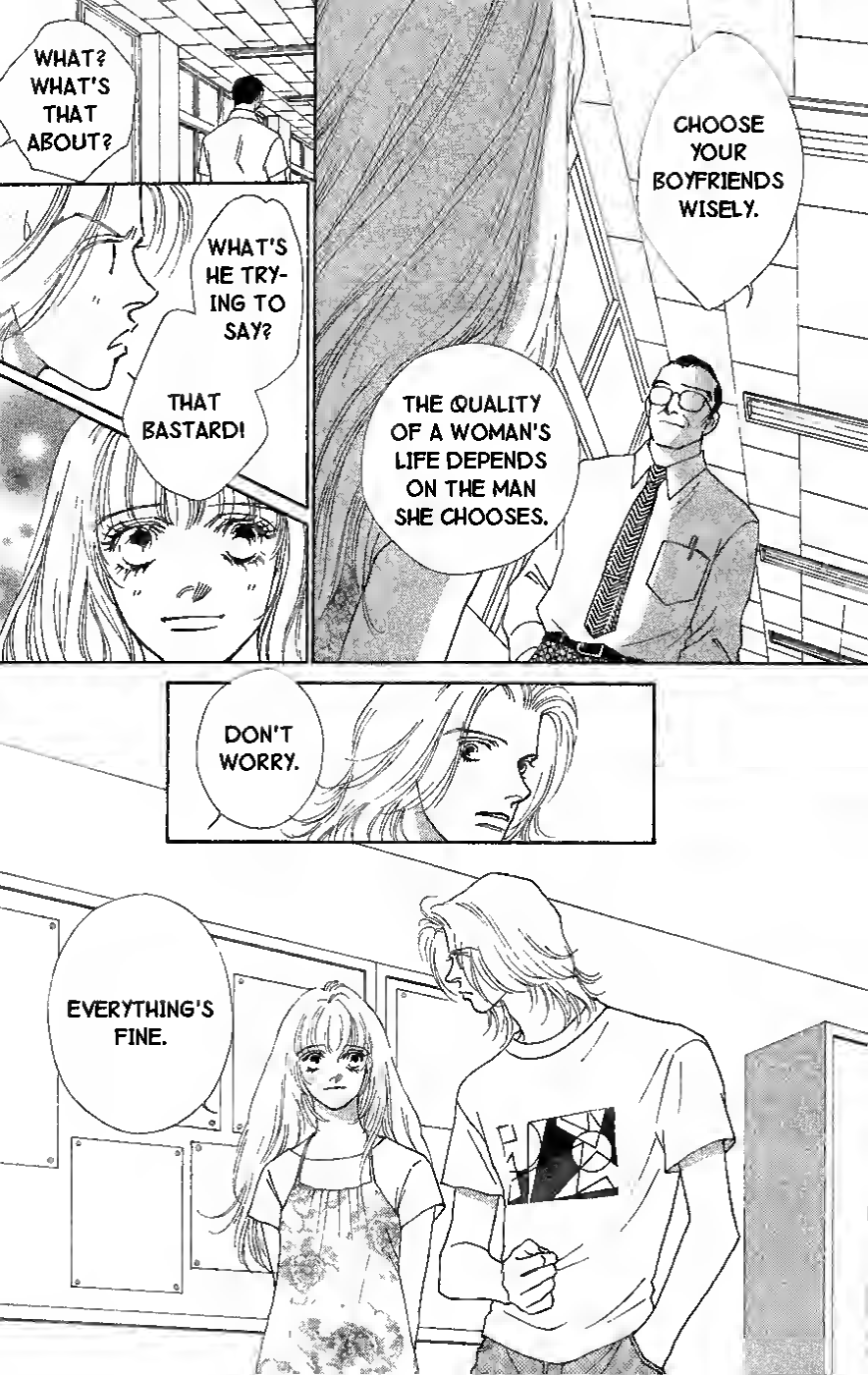

IF THOSE KIDS MAKE SOMETHING AGAIN, LET'S SMASH IT.
IF YOU WANTED ME TO..
I'D BUILD THEM OVER AND OVER.

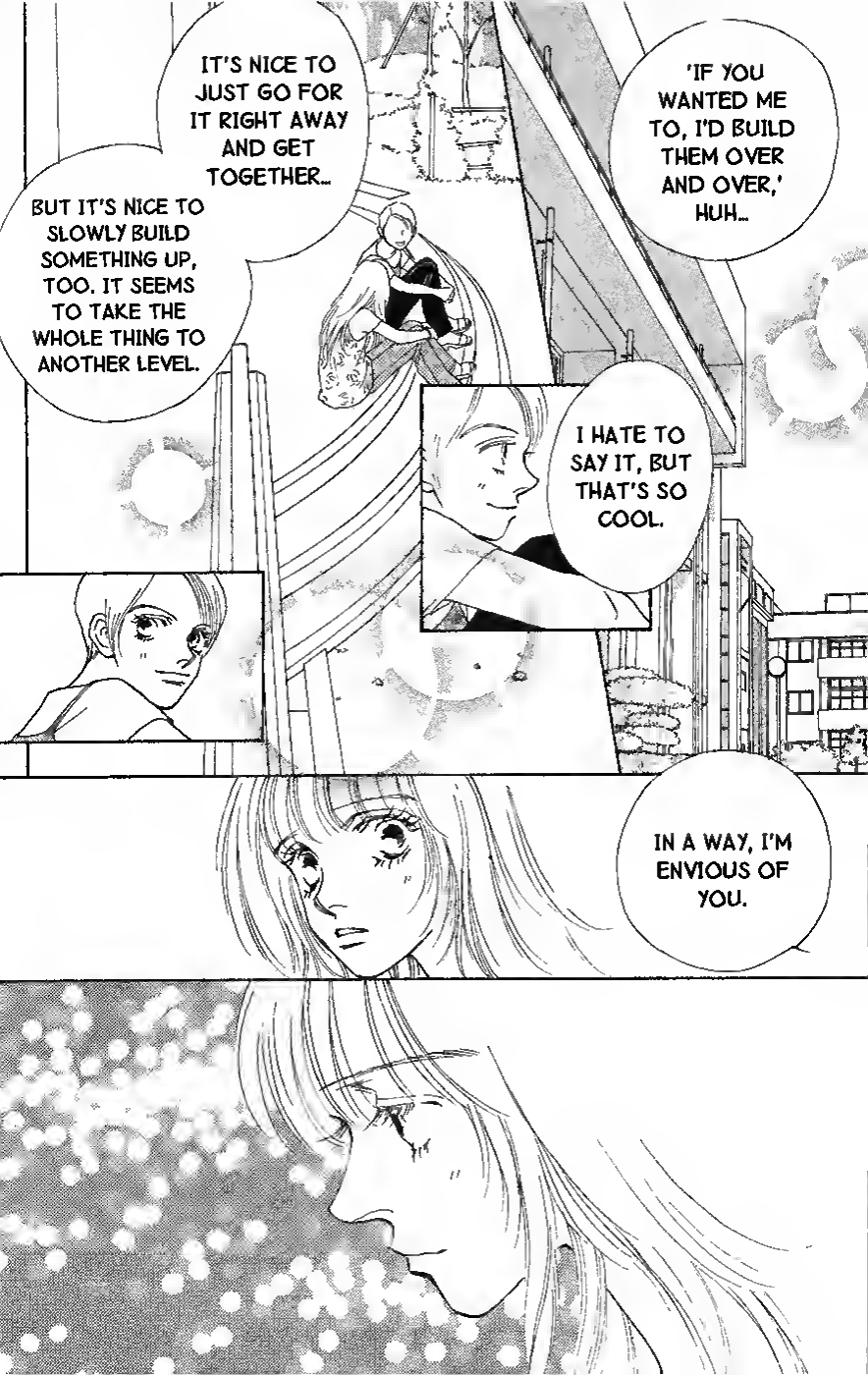
LET'S BUILD THEM TOGETHER.

WHISPER
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU SUPPOSED TO WRITE IN AN APOLOGY NOTE?
JUST WRITE WHATEVER.
THAT YOU REGRET IT AND WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
AND AS ADDED INSUR-ANCE...


I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED NOT TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS AGAIN.
Guidance Office
COUGH
SAY YOU'LL STUDY EXTRA HARD FOR THE FINALS, AND YOU'RE SET!
COUGH
.....
YEESS.
ESPECIALLY YOU, REI. NEXT TIME, AN APOLOGY NOTE WON'T CUT IT.
AND KIRA...
I KNOW YOU'RE GOING THROUGH A LOT RIGHT NOW, INCLUDING YOUR MOTHER'S ILLNESS, BUT YOU CAN'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY.


YES.
!
KIRA...
I FORGOT TO SAY ONE THING.
BOX
OKAY, YOU CAN GO NOW!


WHAT? WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO SAY?
THAT BASTARD!
THE QUALITY OF A WOMAN'S LIFE DEPENDS ON THE MAN SHE CHOOSES.
CHOOSE YOUR BOYFRIENDS WISELY.
DON'T WORRY.
EVERYTHING'S FINE.

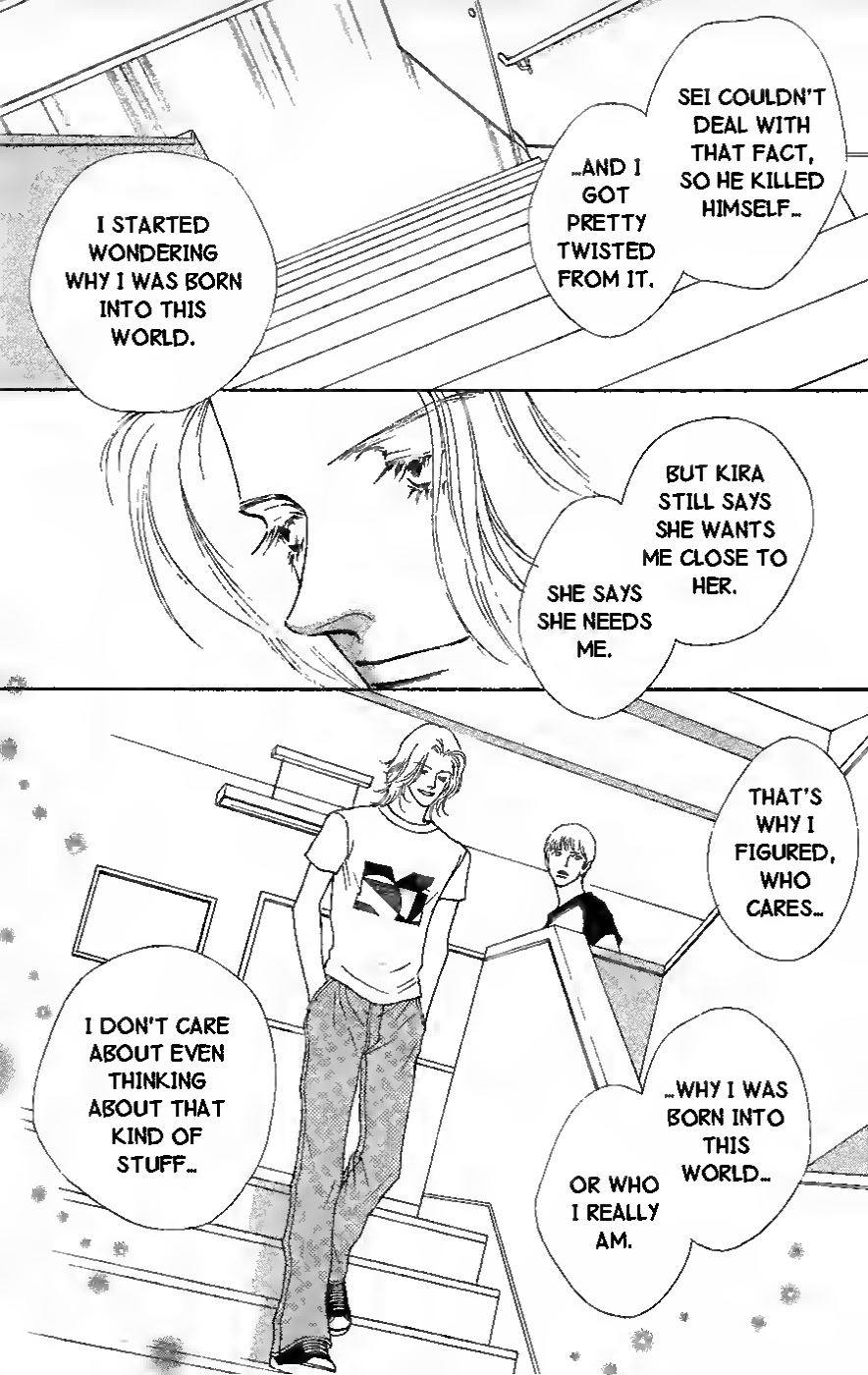

IT'S NICE TO JUST GO FOR IT RIGHT AWAY AND GET TOGETHER...
BUT IT'S NICE TO SLOWLY BUILD SOMETHING UP, TOO. IT SEEMS TO TAKE THE WHOLE THING TO ANOTHER LEVEL.
'IF YOU WANTED ME TO, I'D BUILD THEM OVER AND OVER,' HUH...
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THAT'S SO COOL.
IN A WAY, I'M ENVIOUS OF YOU.

I USED TO BUILD WALLS AND JUST COOP MYSELF UP INSIDE..
SHUTTING OUT EVERYTHING AROUND ME.
MAYBE I WAS WAITING THE WHOLE TIME..
..FOR SOMEONE TO BRING ME OUTSIDE OF THOSE WALLS.
HEY, YOU'RE IN B CLASS, TOO, REI?
ALL RIGHT!!
YEAH, IT'LL BE FUN.
HEY.. BY THE WAY, WHERE DO I SIT?

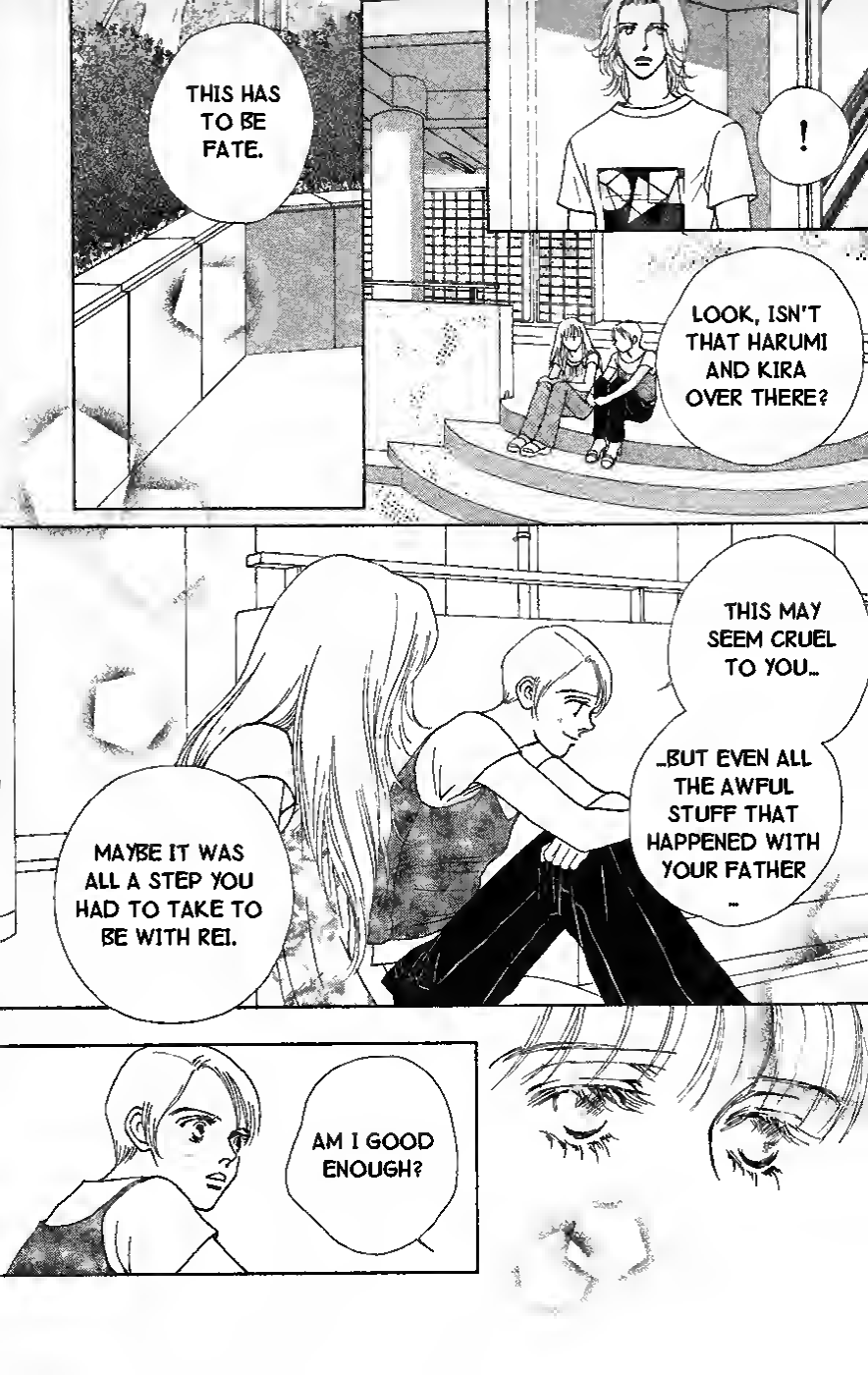
NO WAY!
YOU'RE THAT GIRL FROM THE OTHER DAY!
HEY, HEY,
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA BE DEPRESSED FOR?
I'M NOT DEPRESSED --
I JUST CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF.
.....
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT KIRA UNTIL HARUMI TOLD ME.
BUT...!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU COULD'VE DONE ANYTHING.
YOU WERE ONLY IN JUNIOR HIGH.
YOU COULDN'T HELP IT.

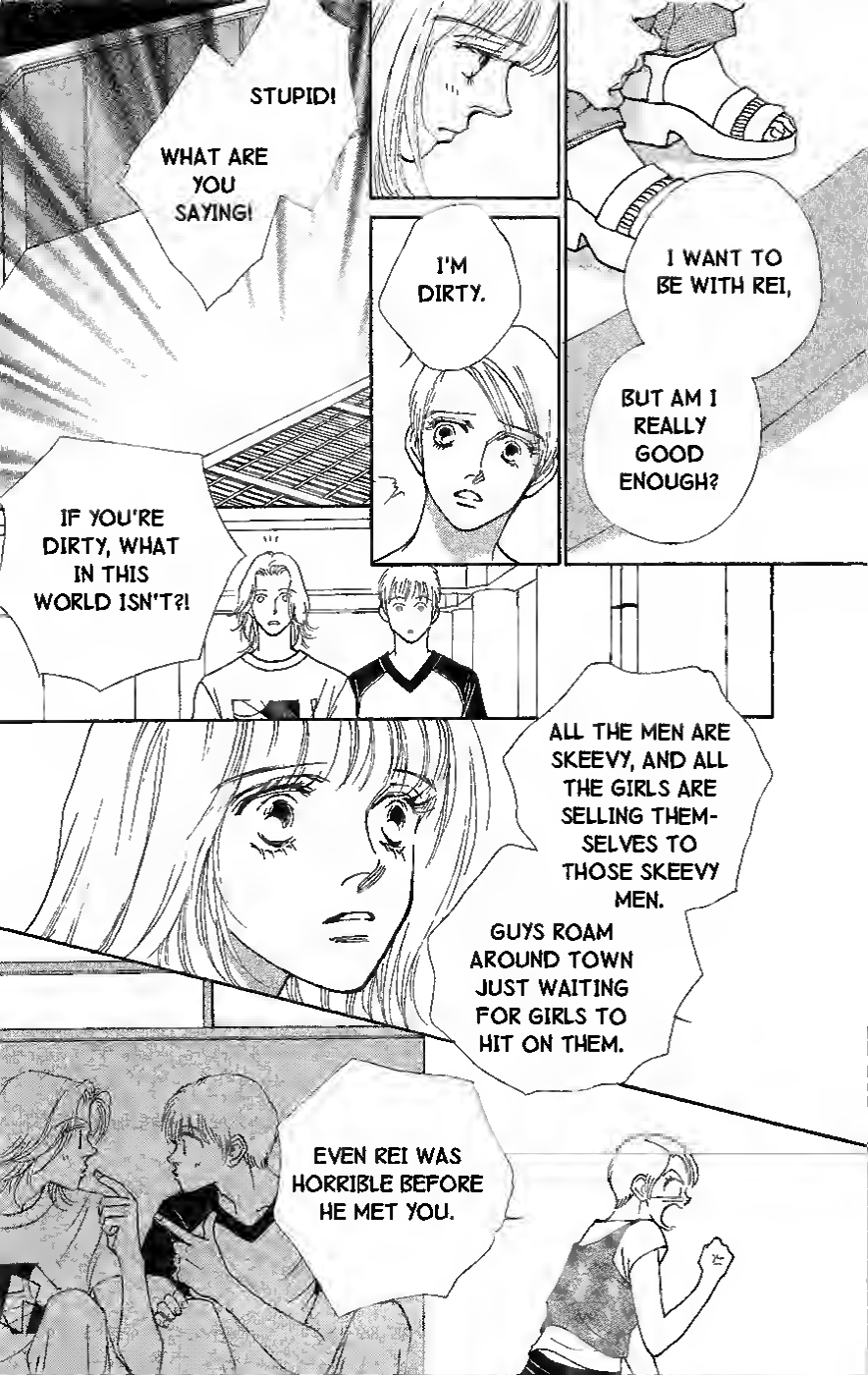
I MEAN, TO BE RAPED..
BESIDES, AS A GUY, I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DEAL!
UNLIKE YOU, I WAS THERE WITH KIRA THE WHOLE TIME.
BUT I HAD NO IDEA. I WAS SUCH A FOOL!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
ABOUT HER FATHER..
BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DO, IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
KIRA'S WOUNDS WON'T DISAP-PEAR.
OF COURSE I'M NOT ALRIGHT!
I WANT TO FEED HIM ALIVE TO SHARKS!

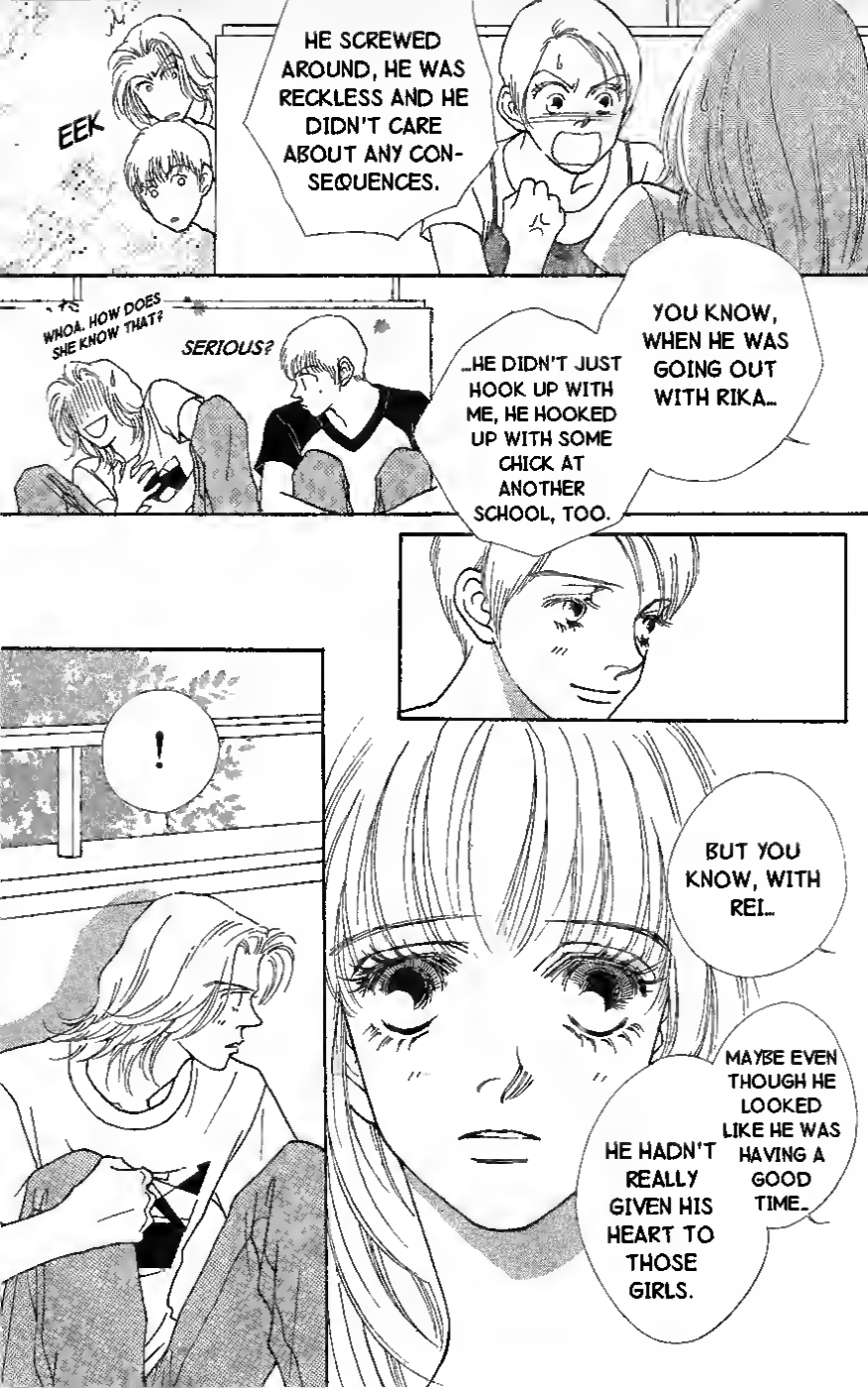
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN MAKE IT WORK WITH KIRA?
I'M NOT SURE. BUT...
SEI AND I WERE CHILDREN FROM MY MOTHER'S AFFAIR.
I'M NOT MY FATHER'S REAL KID.
IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A SOAP OPERA, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY SEI AND I GREW UP NOT BEING NEEDED BY ANYONE.

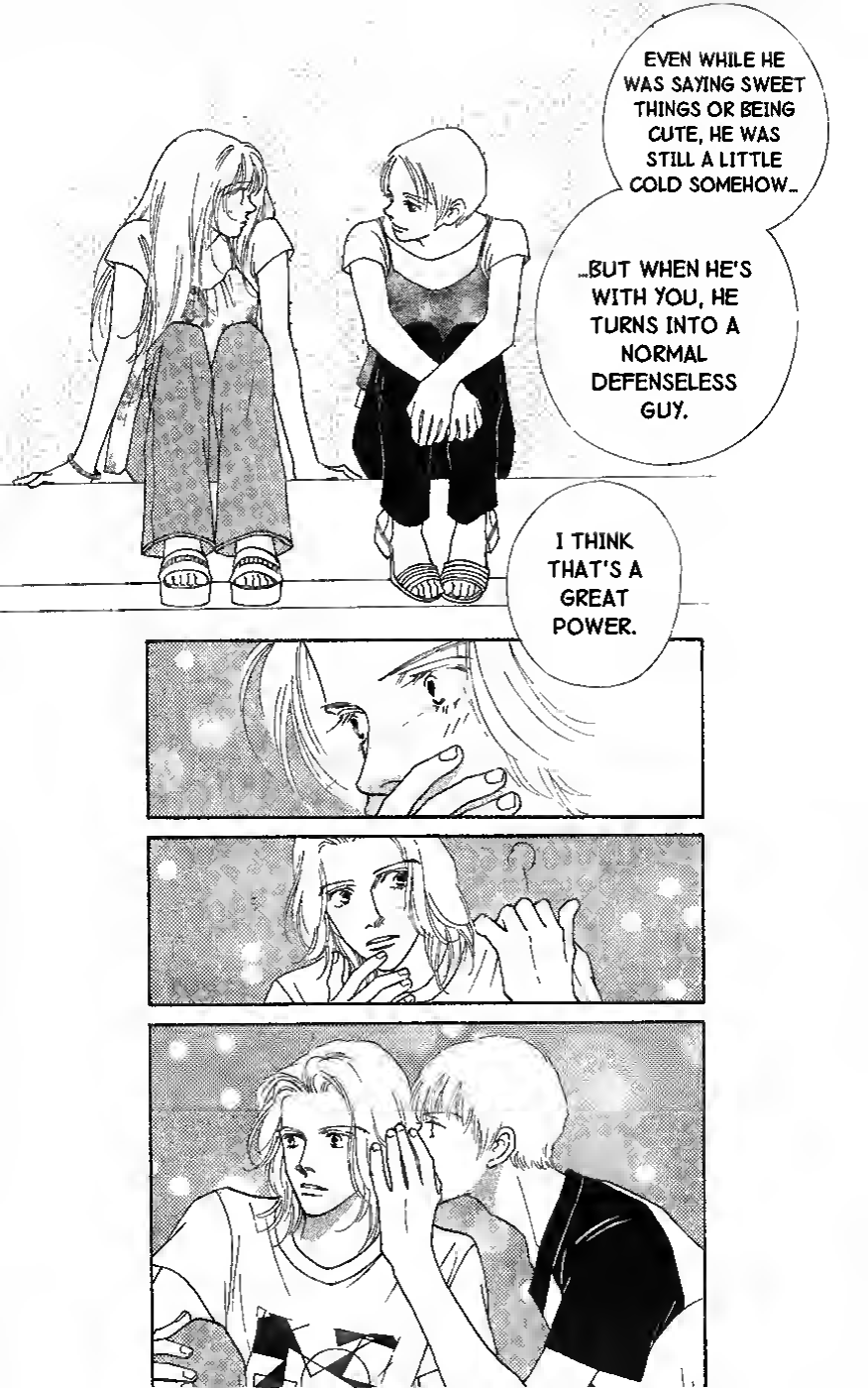

I STARTED WONDERING WHY I WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD.
..AND I GOT PRETTY TWISTED FROM IT.
SEI COULDN'T DEAL WITH THAT FACT, SO HE KILLED HIMSELF..
SHE SAYS SHE NEEDS ME.
BUT KIRA STILL SAYS SHE WANTS ME CLOSE TO HER.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT THAT KIND OF STUFF..
OR WHO I REALLY AM.
..WHY I WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD..
THAT'S WHY I FIGURED, WHO CARES..

BECAUSE KIRA ACCEPTS ME WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT ANY OF THAT STUFF.
ISN'T THAT AMAZING?
WE WERE TOTAL STRANGERS AND GREW UP IN SEPARATE PLACES...
...BUT THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO NEEDS ME.
IT MAKES YOU THINK I'M NOT JUST GARBAGE AFTER ALL, DOESN'T IT?
.....

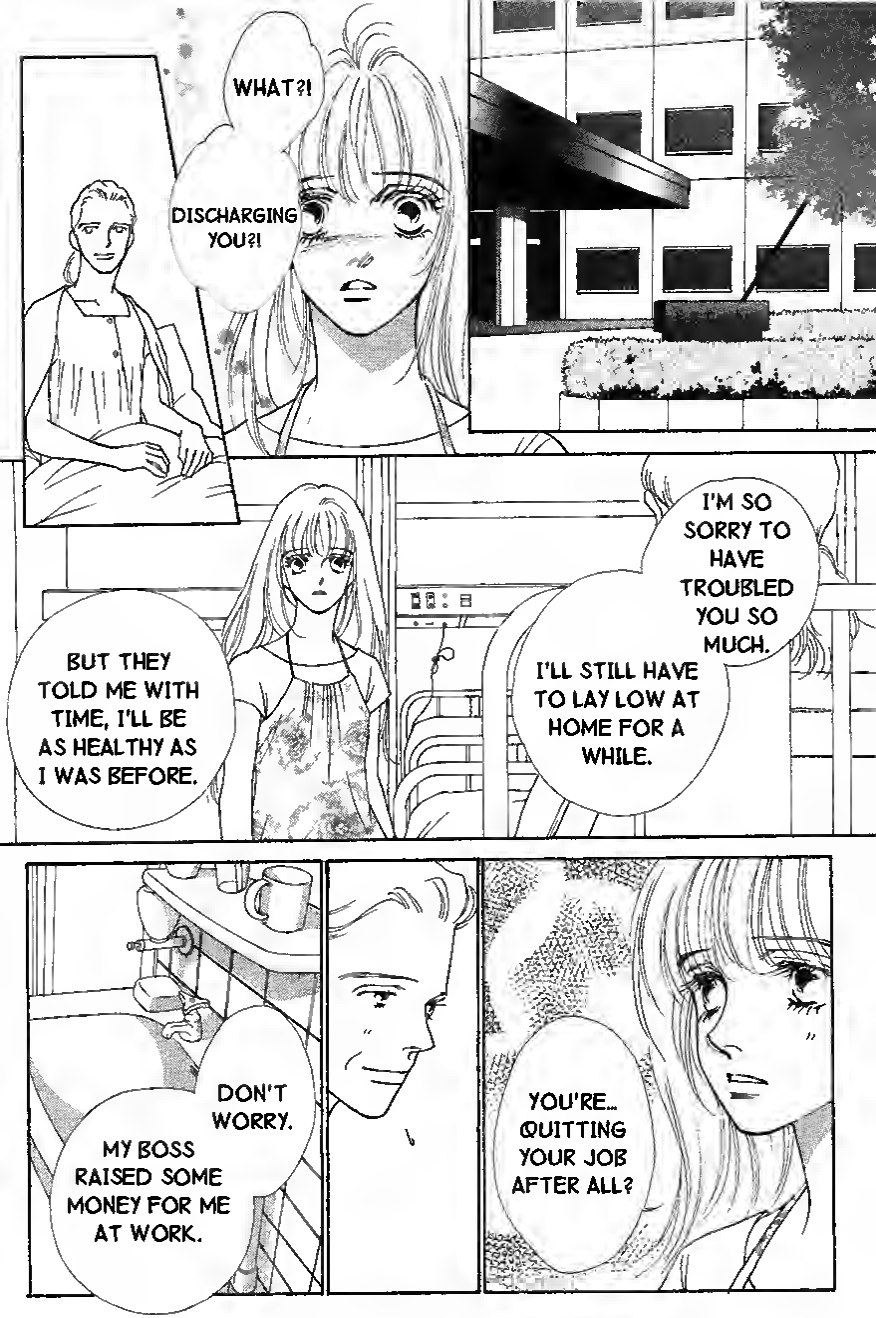

THIS HAS TO BE FATE.
!
LOOK, ISN'T THAT HARUMI AND KIRA OVER THERE?
THIS MAY SEEM CRUEL TO YOU..
..BUT EVEN ALL THE AWFUL STUFF THAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR FATHER ..
MAYBE IT WAS ALL A STEP YOU HAD TO TAKE TO BE WITH REI.
AM I GOOD ENOUGH?

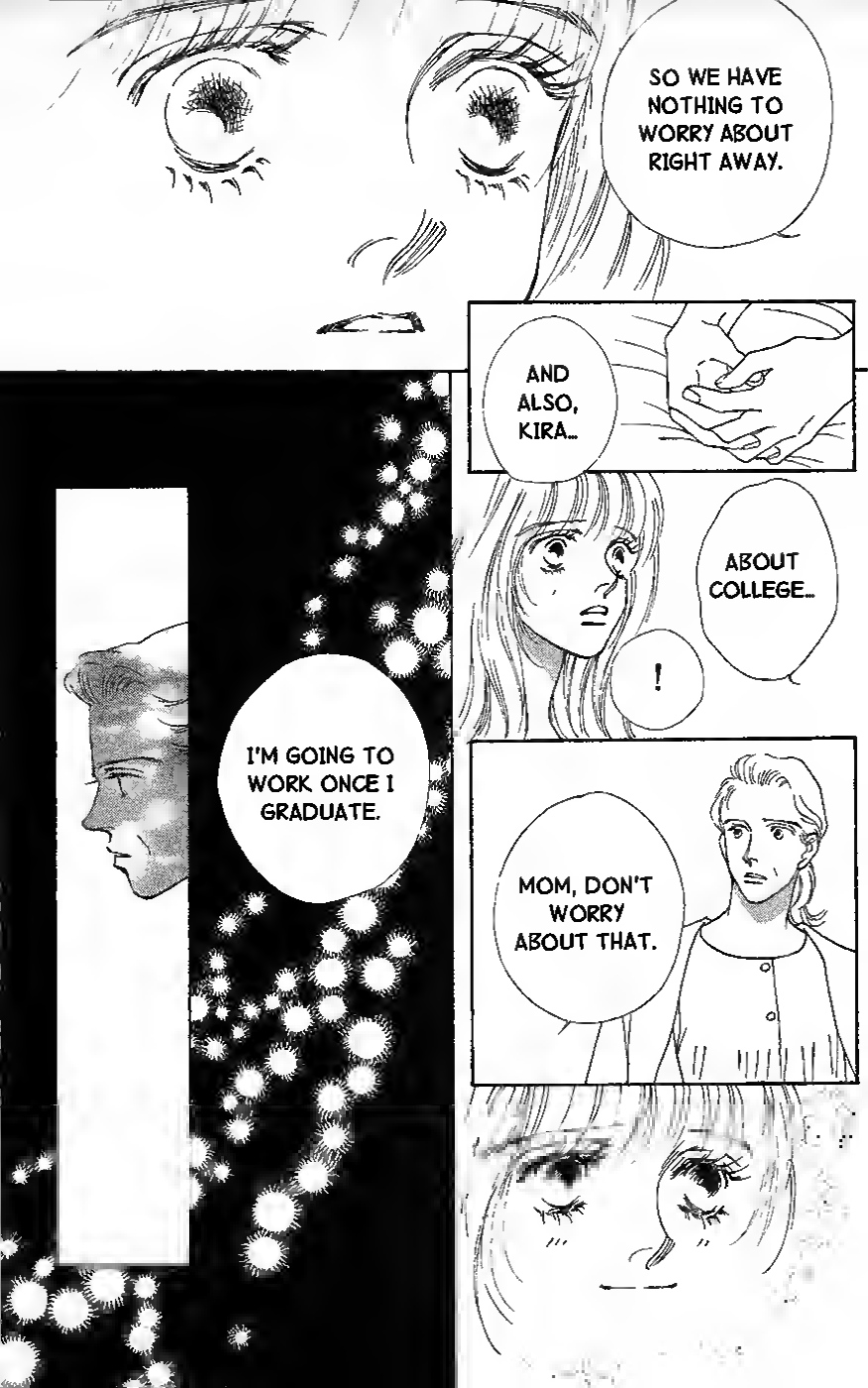

STUPID!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!
I'M DIRTY.
I WANT TO BE WITH REI,
BUT AM I REALLY GOOD ENOUGH?
IF YOU'RE DIRTY, WHAT IN THIS WORLD ISN'T?!
ALL THE MEN ARE SKEEVY, AND ALL THE GIRLS ARE SELLING THEM-SELVES TO THOSE SKEEVY MEN.
GUYS ROAM AROUND TOWN JUST WAITING FOR GIRLS TO HIT ON THEM.
EVEN REI WAS HORRIBLE BEFORE HE MET YOU.

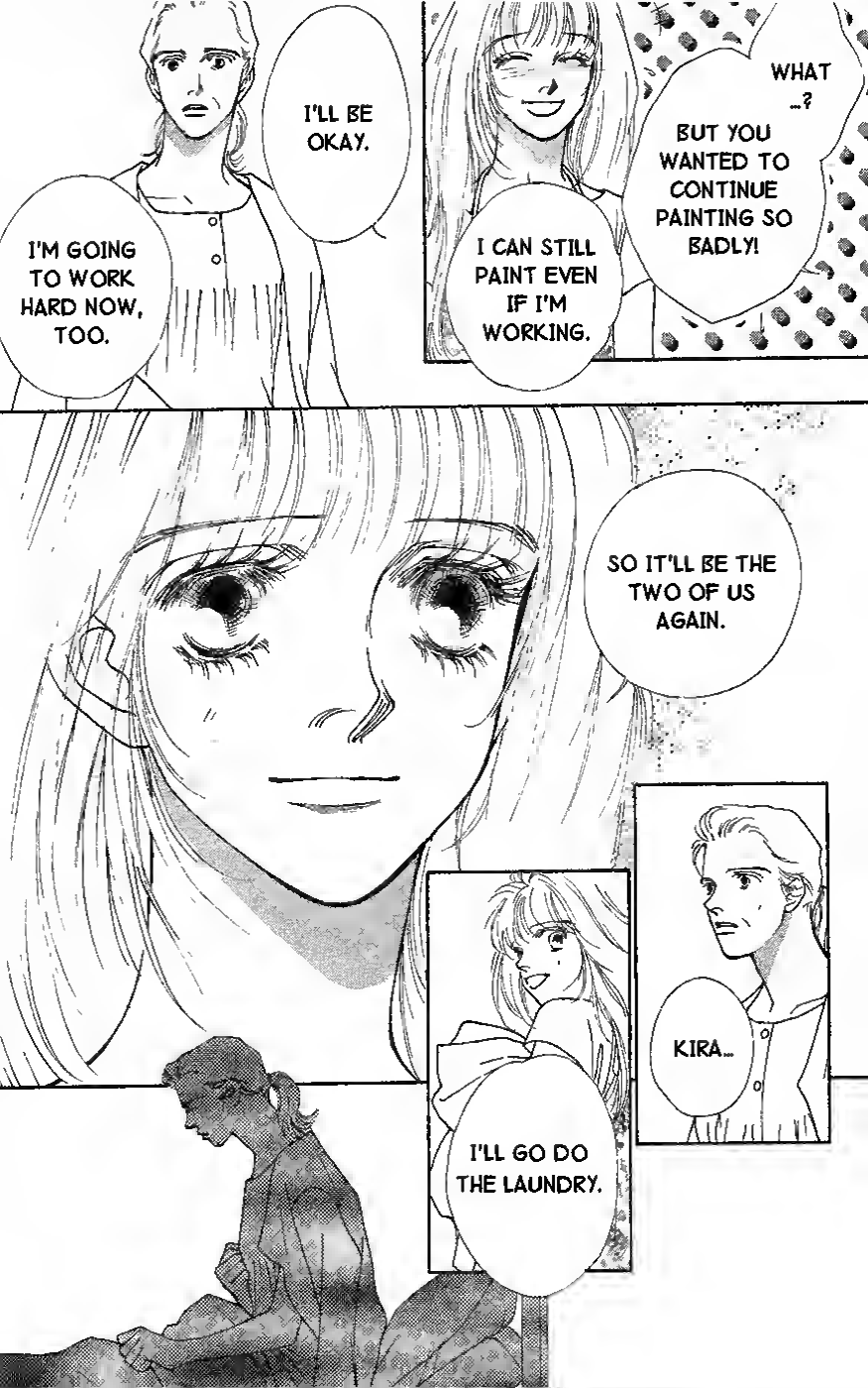

EEK
HE SCREWED AROUND, HE WAS RECKLESS AND HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ANY CONSEQUENCES.
WHOA. HOW DOES SHE KNOW THAT?
SERIOUS?
...HE DIDN'T JUST HOOK UP WITH ME, HE HOOKED UP WITH SOME CHICK AT ANOTHER SCHOOL, TOO.
YOU KNOW, WHEN HE WAS GOING OUT WITH RIKA...
!
BUT YOU KNOW, WITH REI...
HE HADN'T REALLY GIVEN HIS HEART TO THOSE GIRLS.
MAYBE EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS HAVING A GOOD TIME...

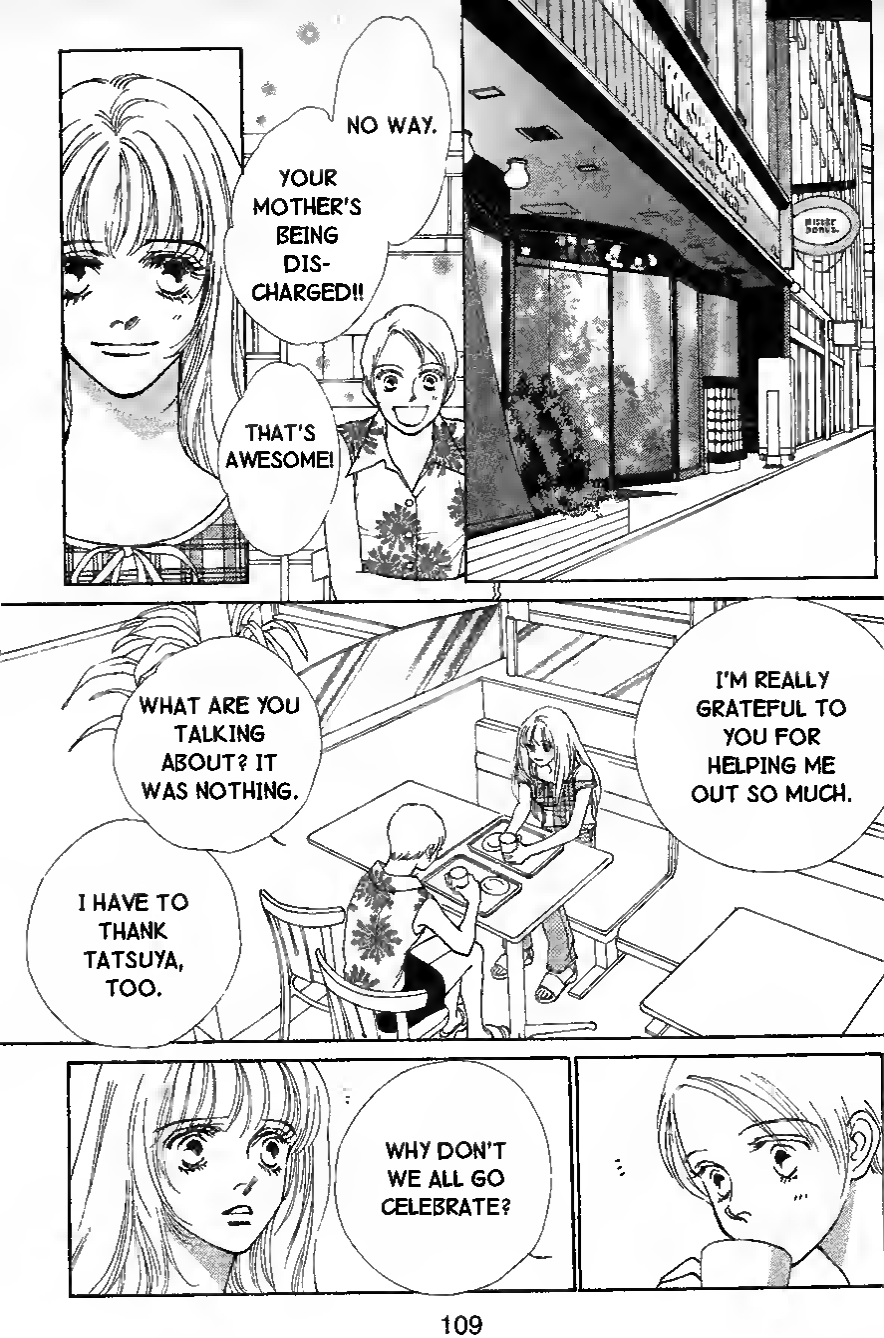

EVEN WHILE HE WAS SAYING SWEET THINGS OR BEING CUTE, HE WAS STILL A LITTLE COLD SOMEHOW...
...BUT WHEN HE'S WITH YOU, HE TURNS INTO A NORMAL DEFENSELESS GUY.
I THINK THAT'S A GREAT POWER.

WE'RE NO MATCH
FOR GIRLS!


WHAT?!
DISCHARGING YOU?!
I'M SO SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU SO MUCH.
I'LL STILL HAVE TO LAY LOW AT HOME FOR A WHILE.
BUT THEY TOLD ME WITH TIME, I'LL BE AS HEALTHY AS I WAS BEFORE.
DON'T WORRY.
MY BOSS RAISED SOME MONEY FOR ME AT WORK.
YOU'RE... QUITTING YOUR JOB AFTER ALL?

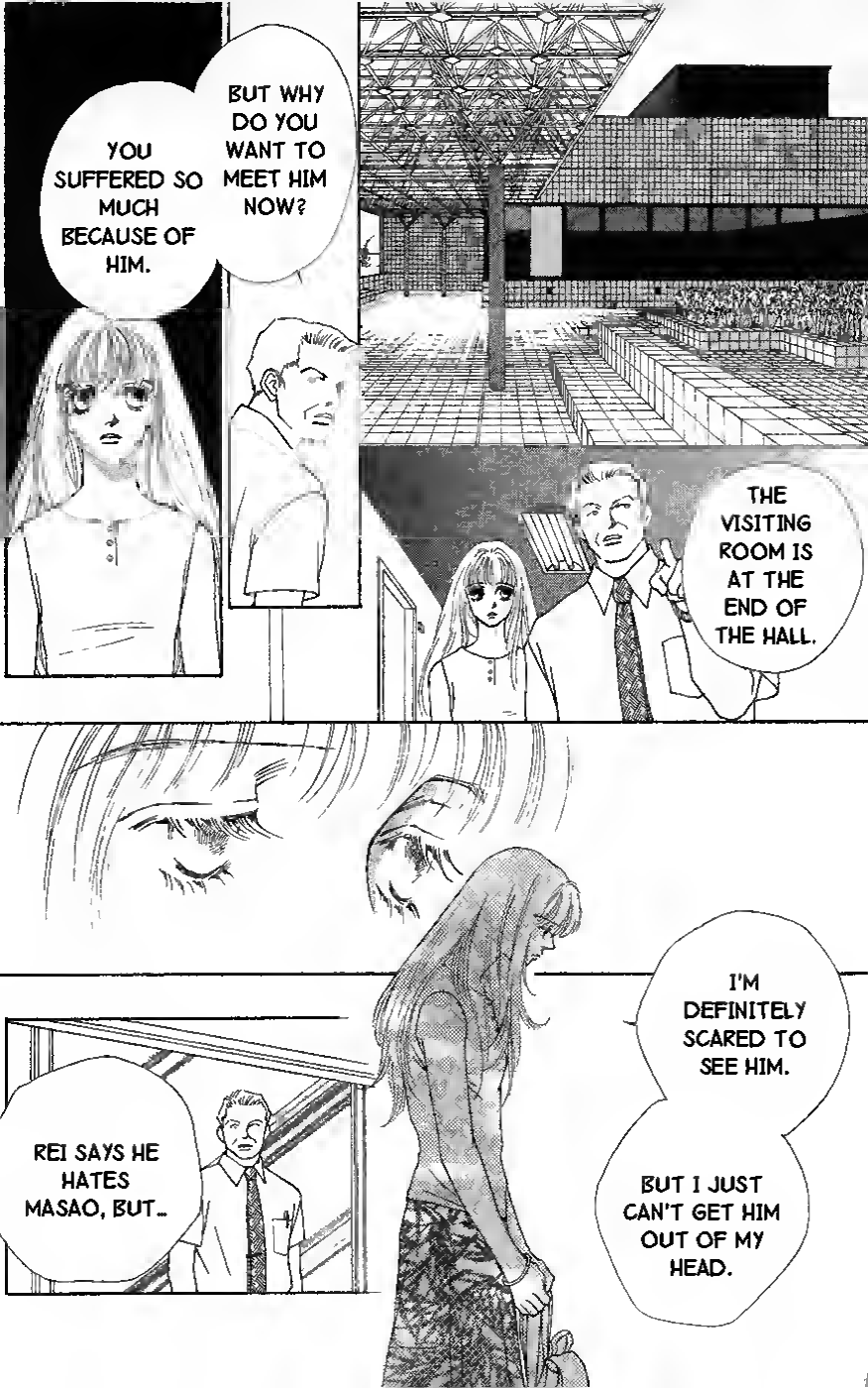

SO WE HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT AWAY.
AND ALSO, KIRA...
ABOUT COLLEGE...
!
MOM, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
I'M GOING TO WORK ONCE I GRADUATE.


I'LL BE OKAY.
I'M GOING TO WORK HARD NOW, TOO.
WHAT ...?
BUT YOU WANTED TO CONTINUE PAINTING SO BADLY!
I CAN STILL PAINT EVEN IF I'M WORKING.
SO IT'LL BE THE TWO OF US AGAIN.
KIRA...
I'LL GO DO THE LAUNDRY.


NO WAY.
YOUR MOTHER'S BEING DIS-CHARGED!!
THAT'S AWESOME!
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HELPING ME OUT SO MUCH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT WAS NOTHING.
I HAVE TO THANK TATSUYA, TOO.
WHY DON'T WE ALL GO CELEBRATE?

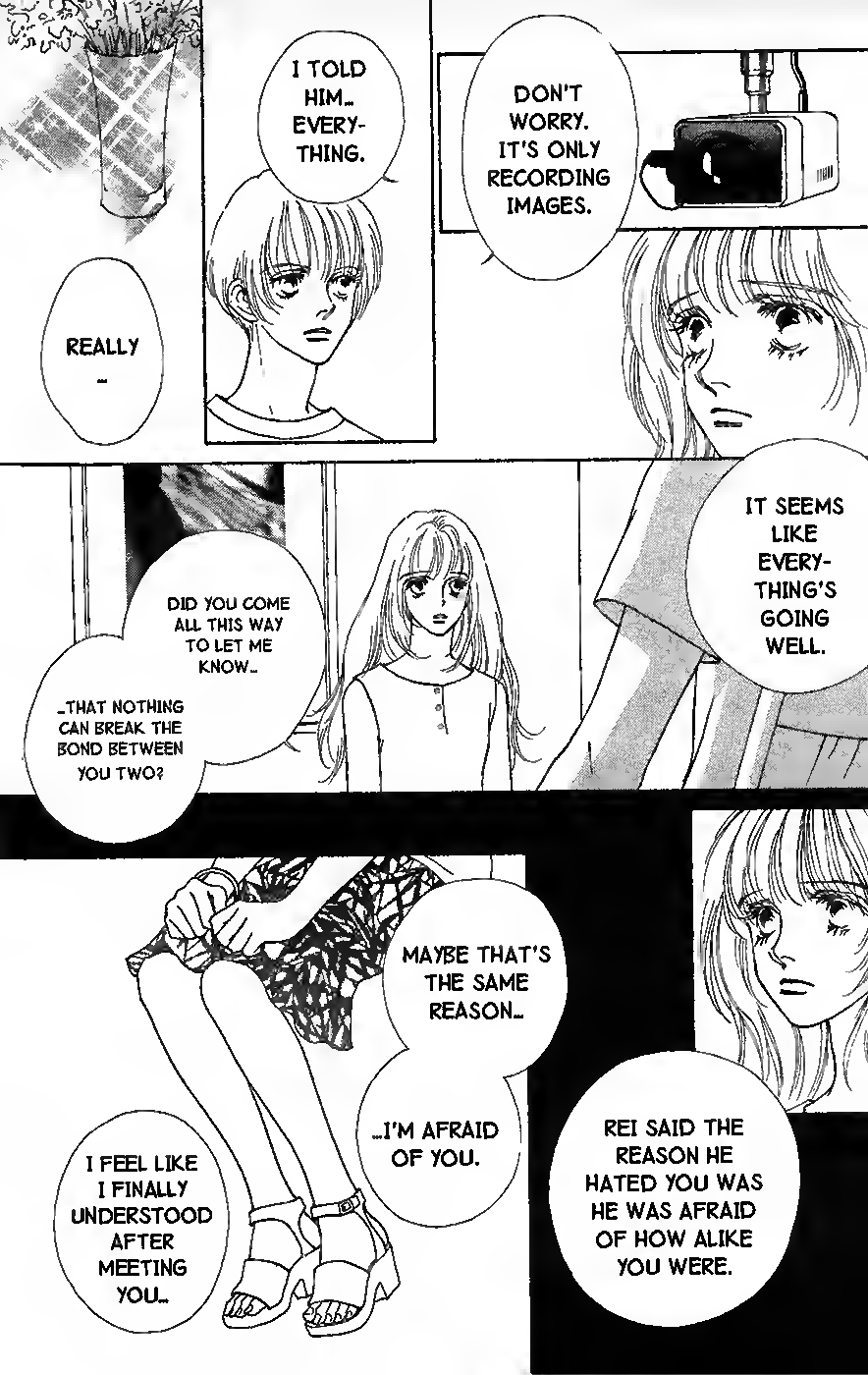
!
WHEN YOUR MOTHER GETS OUT, WHY DON'T THE FOUR OF US GO ON A DOUBLE DATE?
THAT'S FINE WITH ME, BUT WHAT ABOUT REI AND TATSUYA?
OF COURSE IT'LL BE OKAY.
HOW COULD THEY NOT WANT TO DO WHAT THEIR ADORABLE GIRLFRIENDS ASK THEM?
KLAK
HOLD ON. I'M GONNA CALL TATSUYA RIGHT NOW.
!
MASAO?!

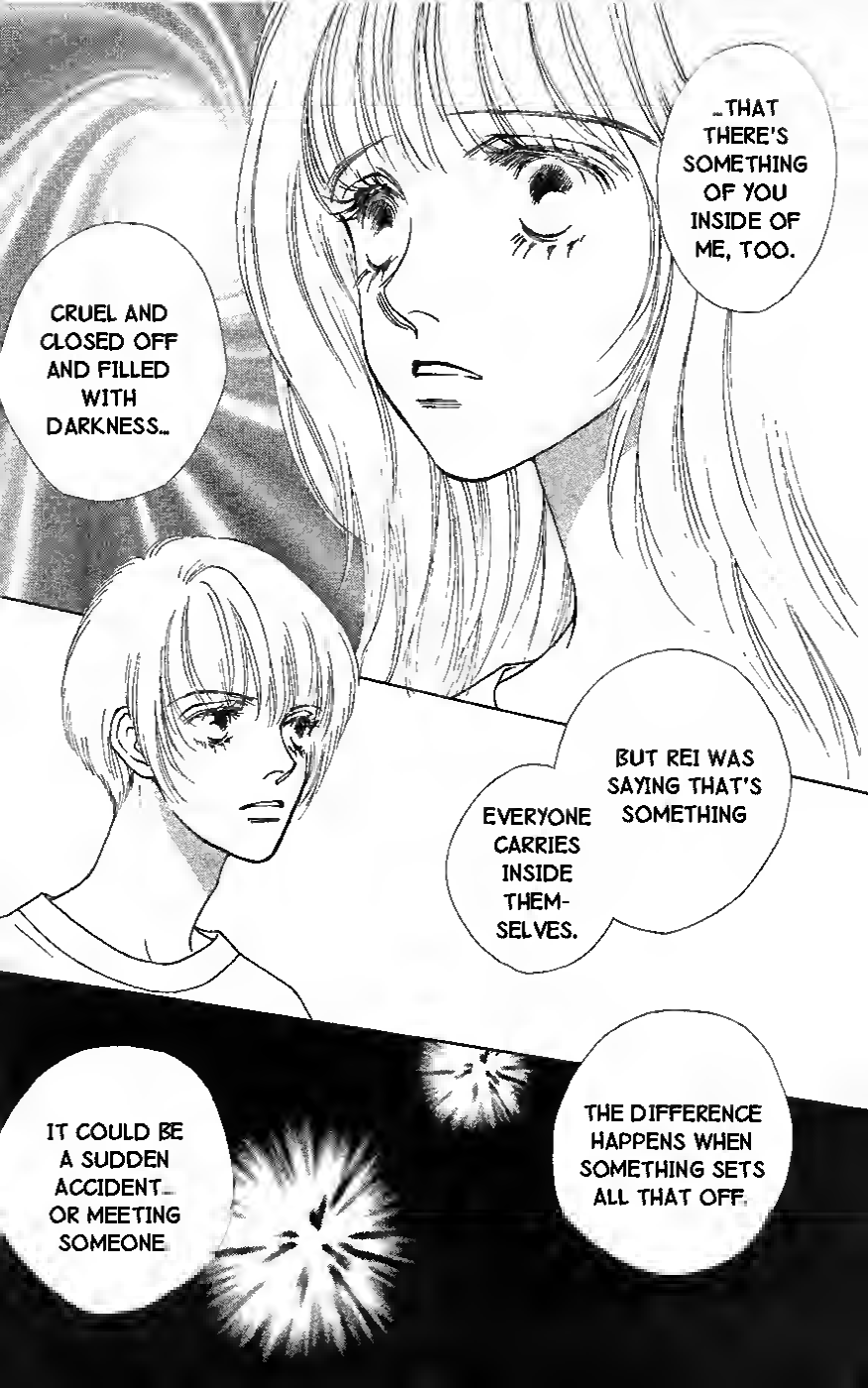
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, CALL ME.
OKUDA
090-55[illegible]

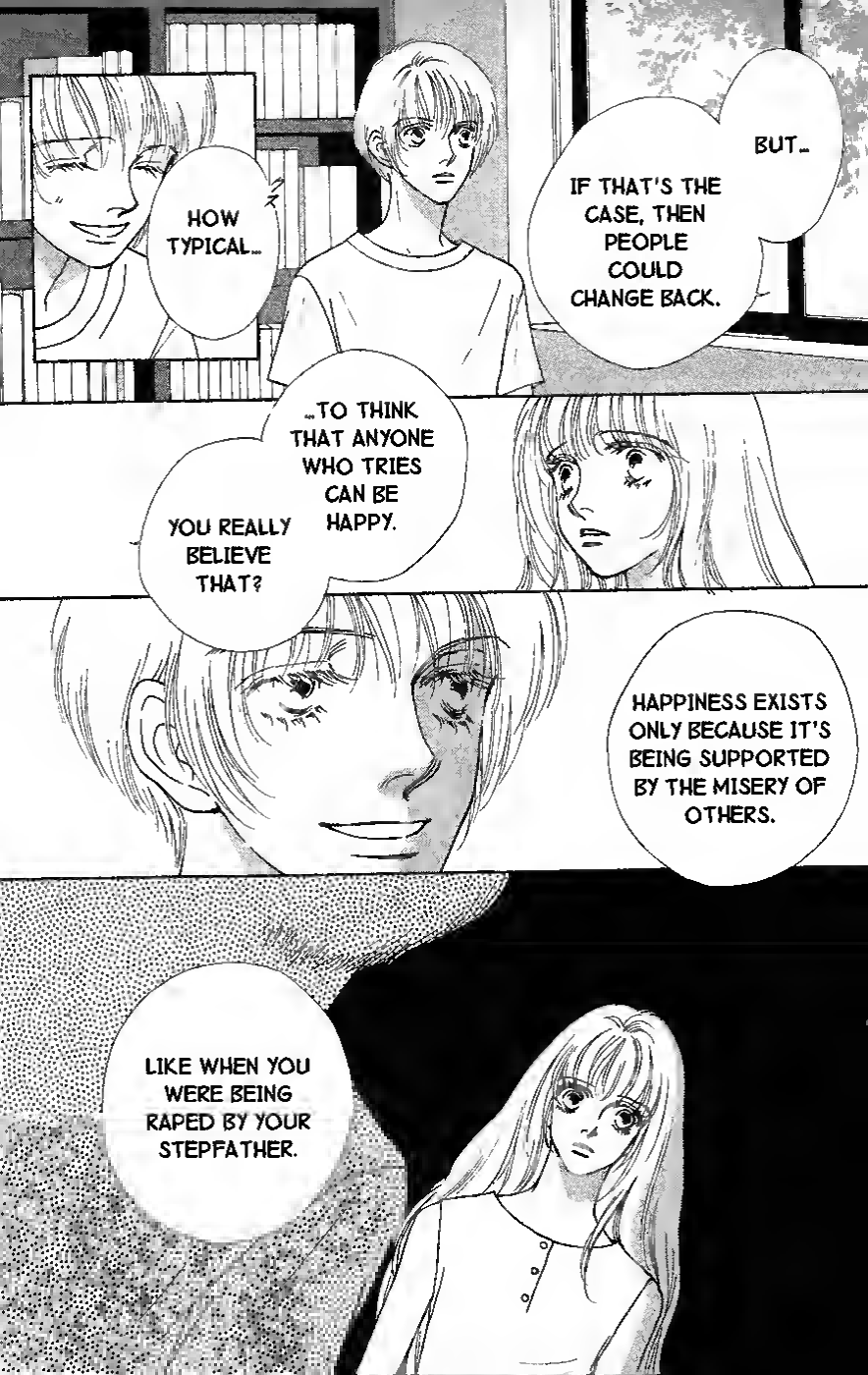

YOU SUFFERED SO MUCH BECAUSE OF HIM.
BUT WHY DO YOU WANT TO MEET HIM NOW?
THE VISITING ROOM IS AT THE END OF THE HALL.
I'M DEFINITELY SCARED TO SEE HIM.
BUT I JUST CAN'T GET HIM OUT OF MY HEAD.
REI SAYS HE HATES MASAO, BUT...

...I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO HATE HIM.
I JUST CAN'T.
CLICK

HOW ARE YOU?
ALL RIGHT.
I'M BORED, BUT GETTING BY.
YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD.
I'M OKAY.
!
DID YOU ALREADY CONFESS TO REI?

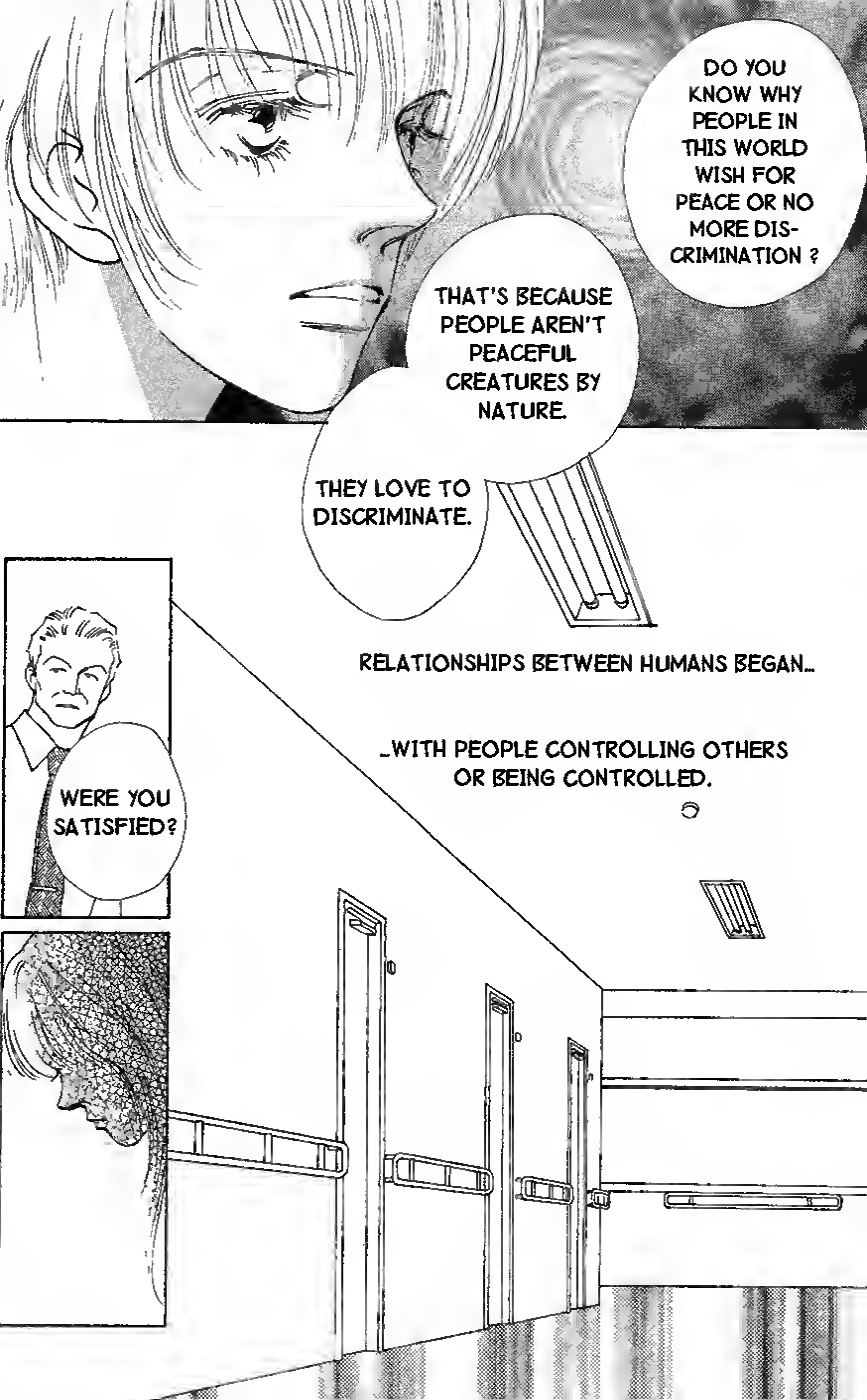

I TOLD HIM... EVERY-THING.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S ONLY RECORDING IMAGES.
REALLY...
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY-THING'S GOING WELL.
DID YOU COME ALL THIS WAY TO LET ME KNOW...
...THAT NOTHING CAN BREAK THE BOND BETWEEN YOU TWO?
MAYBE THAT'S THE SAME REASON...
...I'M AFRAID OF YOU.
I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD AFTER MEETING YOU...
REI SAID THE REASON HE HATED YOU WAS HE WAS AFRAID OF HOW ALIKE YOU WERE.

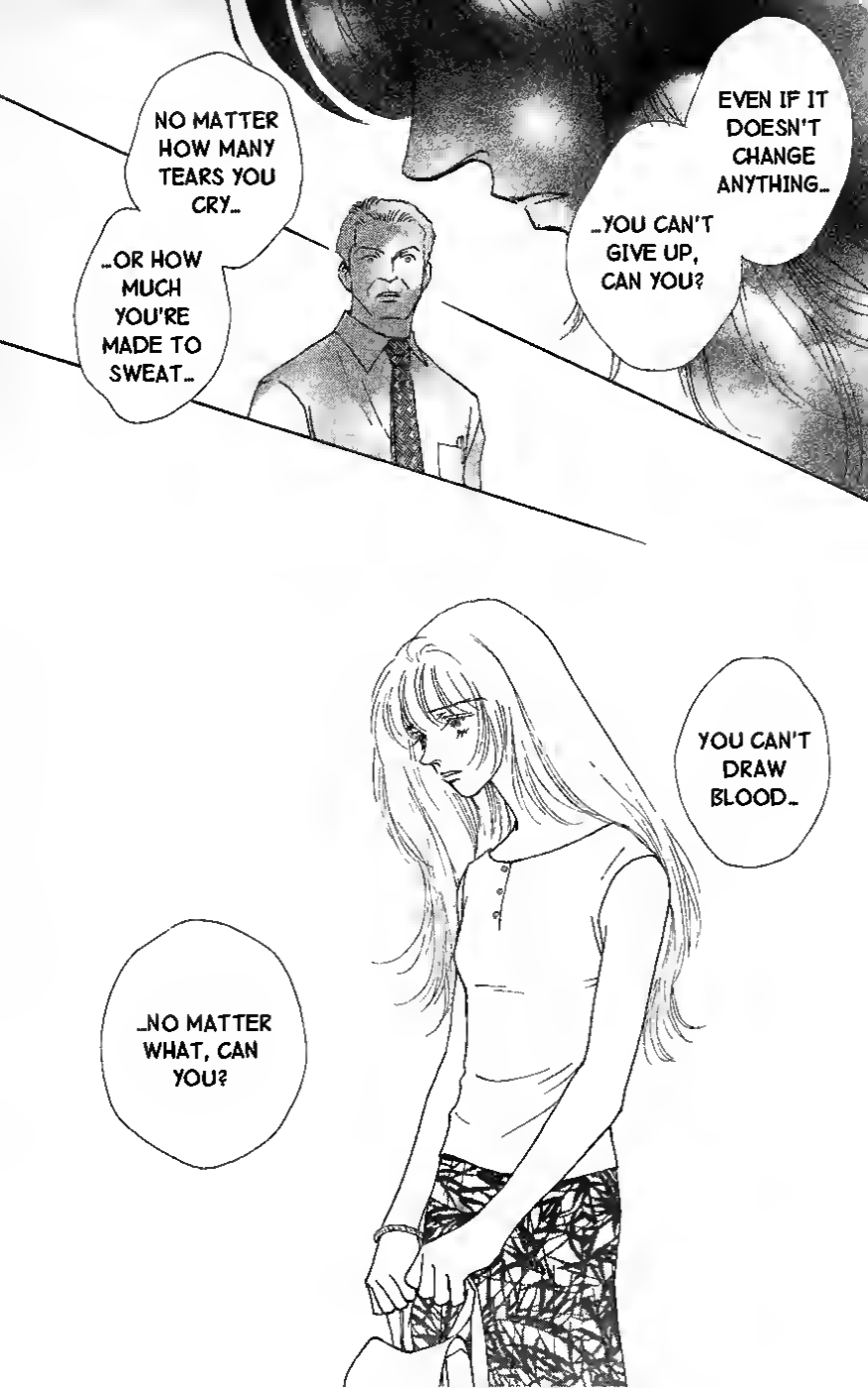

...THAT THERE'S SOMETHING OF YOU INSIDE OF ME, TOO.
CRUEL AND CLOSED OFF AND FILLED WITH DARKNESS...
BUT REI WAS SAYING THAT'S SOMETHING
EVERYONE CARRIES INSIDE THEM-SELVES.
THE DIFFERENCE HAPPENS WHEN SOMETHING SETS ALL THAT OFF.
IT COULD BE A SUDDEN ACCIDENT... OR MEETING SOMEONE.

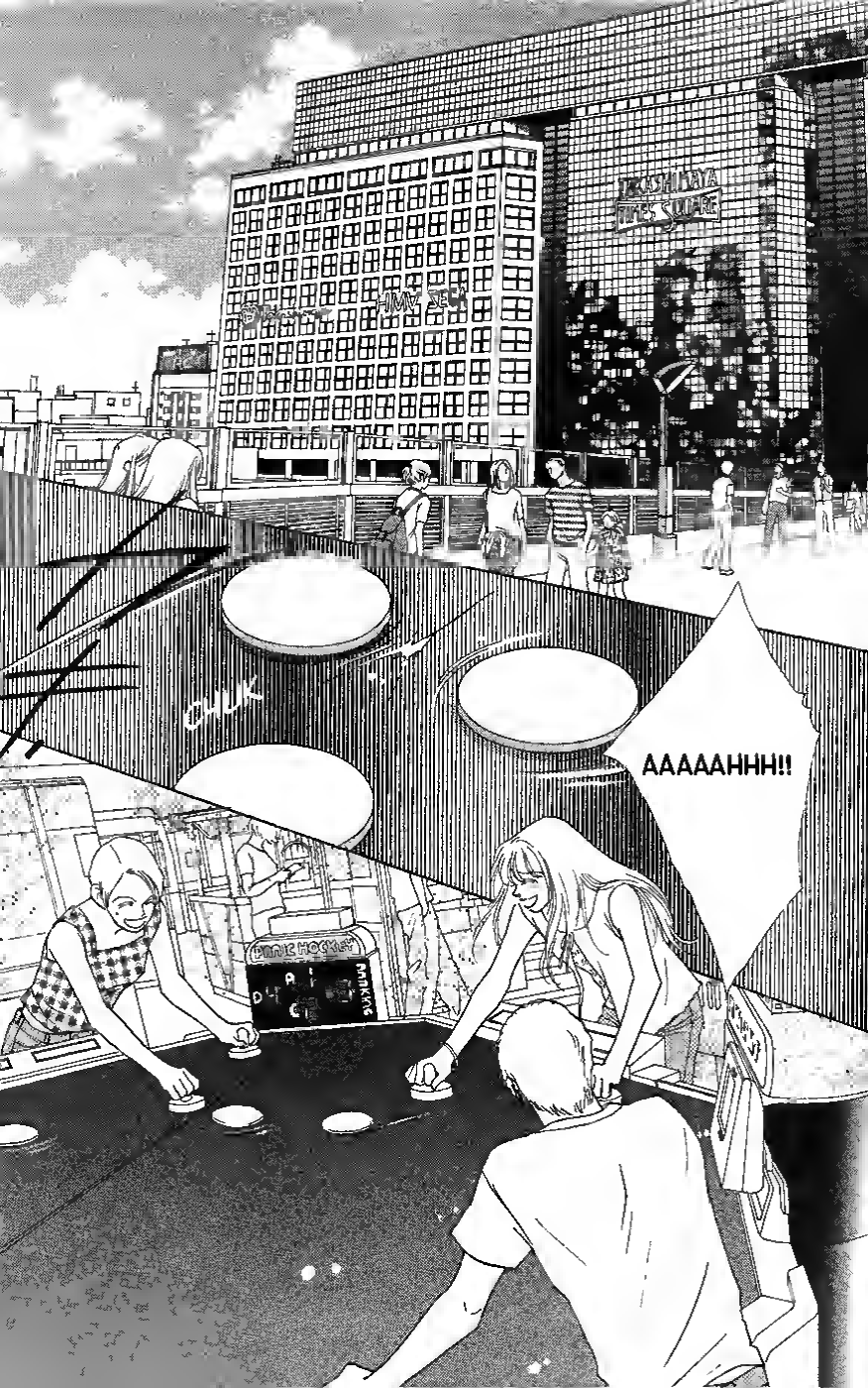

BUT...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN PEOPLE COULD CHANGE BACK.
HOW TYPICAL...
...TO THINK THAT ANYONE WHO TRIES CAN BE HAPPY.
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
HAPPINESS EXISTS ONLY BECAUSE IT'S BEING SUPPORTED BY THE MISERY OF OTHERS.
LIKE WHEN YOU WERE BEING RAPED BY YOUR STEPFATHER.

YOUR MOTHER WOULDN'T HAVE COLLAPSED FROM EXHAUSTION...
...AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO GIVE UP YOUR DREAMS OF GOING TO ART SCHOOL.
THE FACT THAT YOU WERE SLEEPING WITH YOUR STEP-FATHER...
...GUARANTEED YOUR EXISTENCE.
IT'S LIKE ME BEING PROTECTED BY YUJI AOKI.
THERE'S A FAIR AMOUNT OF SACRIFICE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN A FRONT OF HAPPINESS.

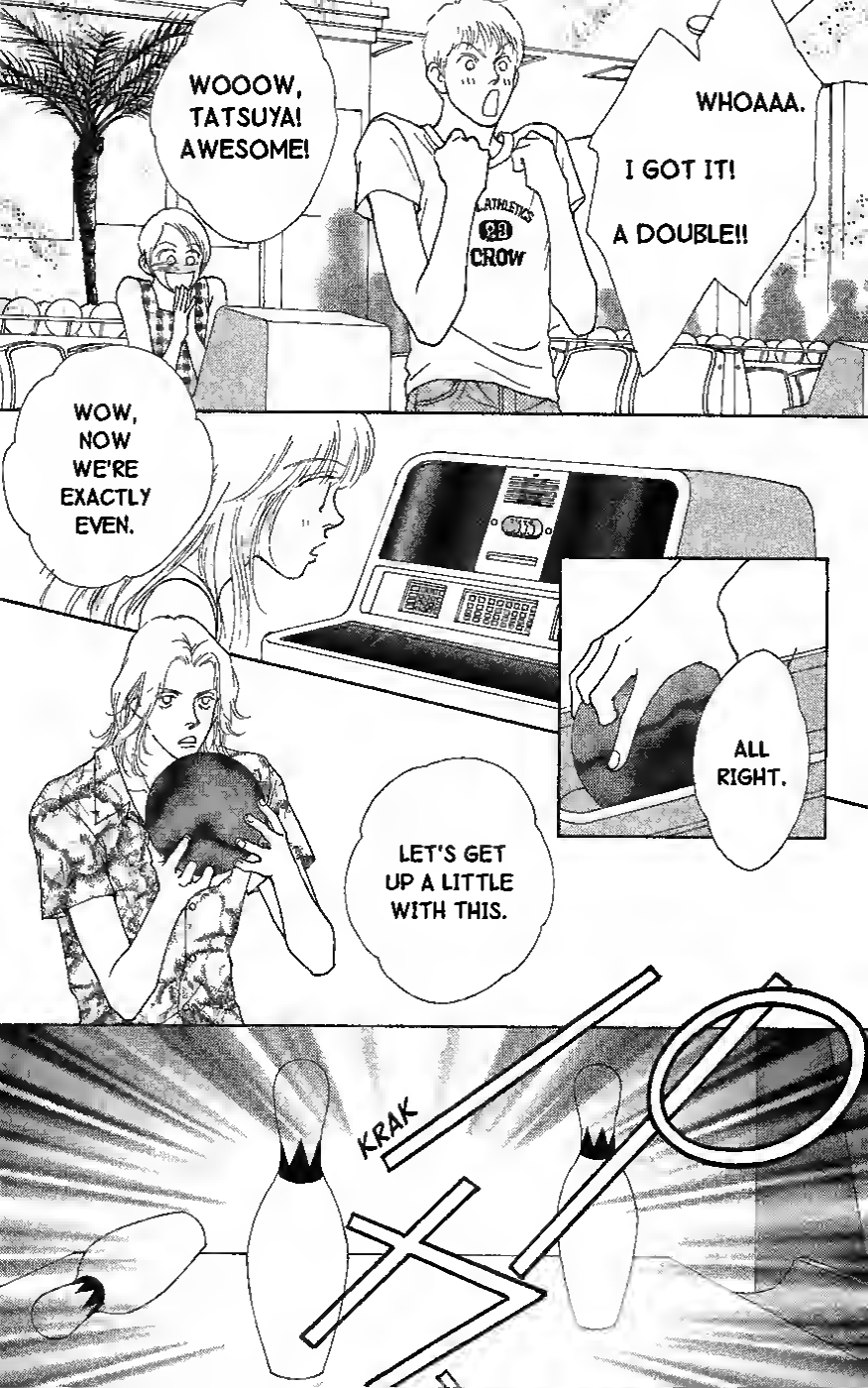
YOU MEAN LIKE YOU AND REI'S RELATIONSHIP WHERE YOU LICK EACH OTHER'S WOUNDS?
BUT THERE MUST BE RELATION-SHIPS THAT AREN'T THAT WAY.
IT'S AN ILLUSION.

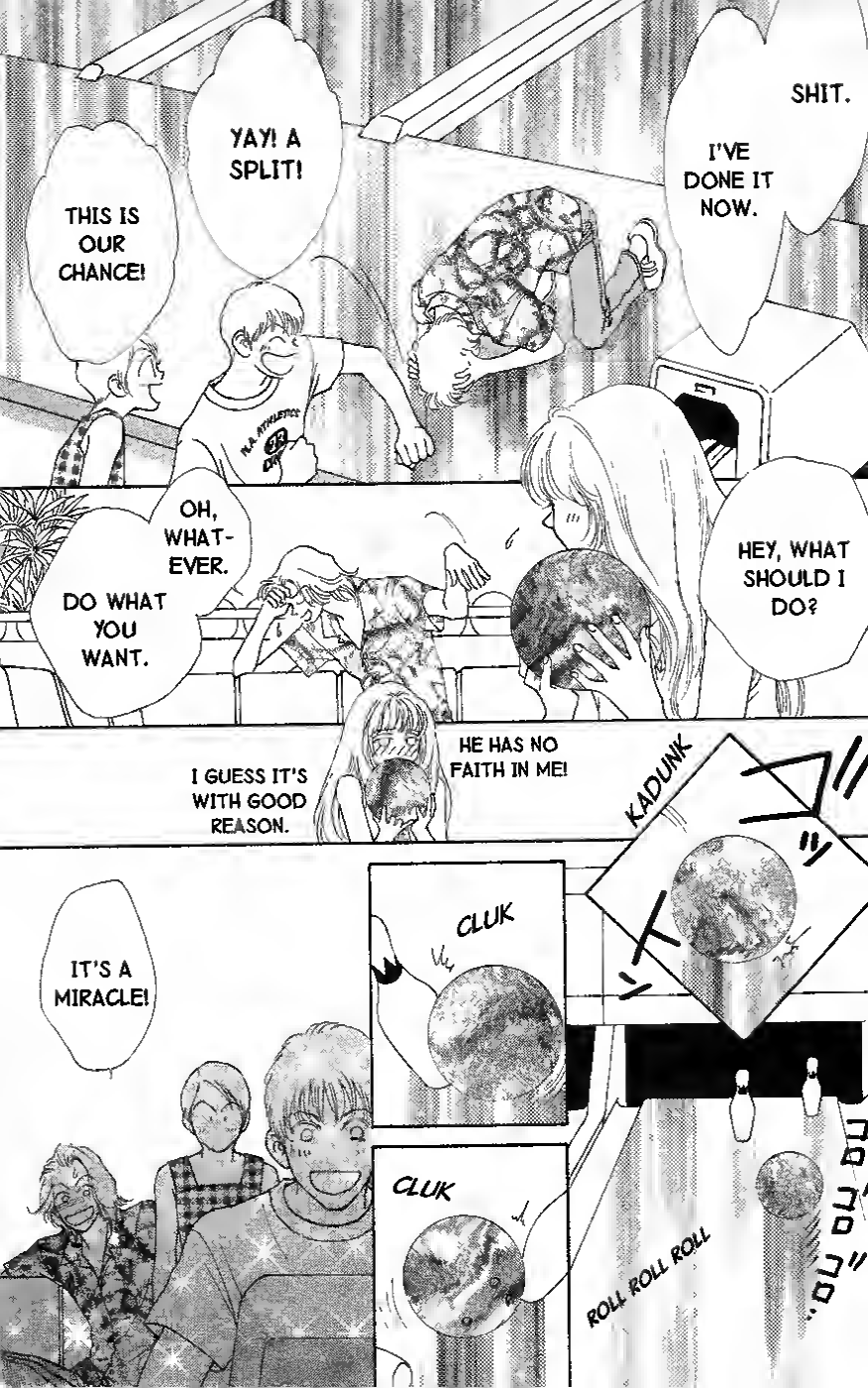

DO YOU KNOW WHY PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WISH FOR PEACE OR NO MORE DIS-CRIMINATION ?
THAT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE AREN'T PEACEFUL CREATURES BY NATURE.
THEY LOVE TO DISCRIMINATE.
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HUMANS BEGAN..
..WITH PEOPLE CONTROLLING OTHERS OR BEING CONTROLLED.
WERE YOU SATISFIED?


EVEN IF IT DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING...
...YOU CAN'T GIVE UP, CAN YOU?
NO MATTER HOW MANY TEARS YOU CRY...
...OR HOW MUCH YOU'RE MADE TO SWEAT...
YOU CAN'T DRAW BLOOD...
...NO MATTER WHAT, CAN YOU?


AAAAAHHH!!

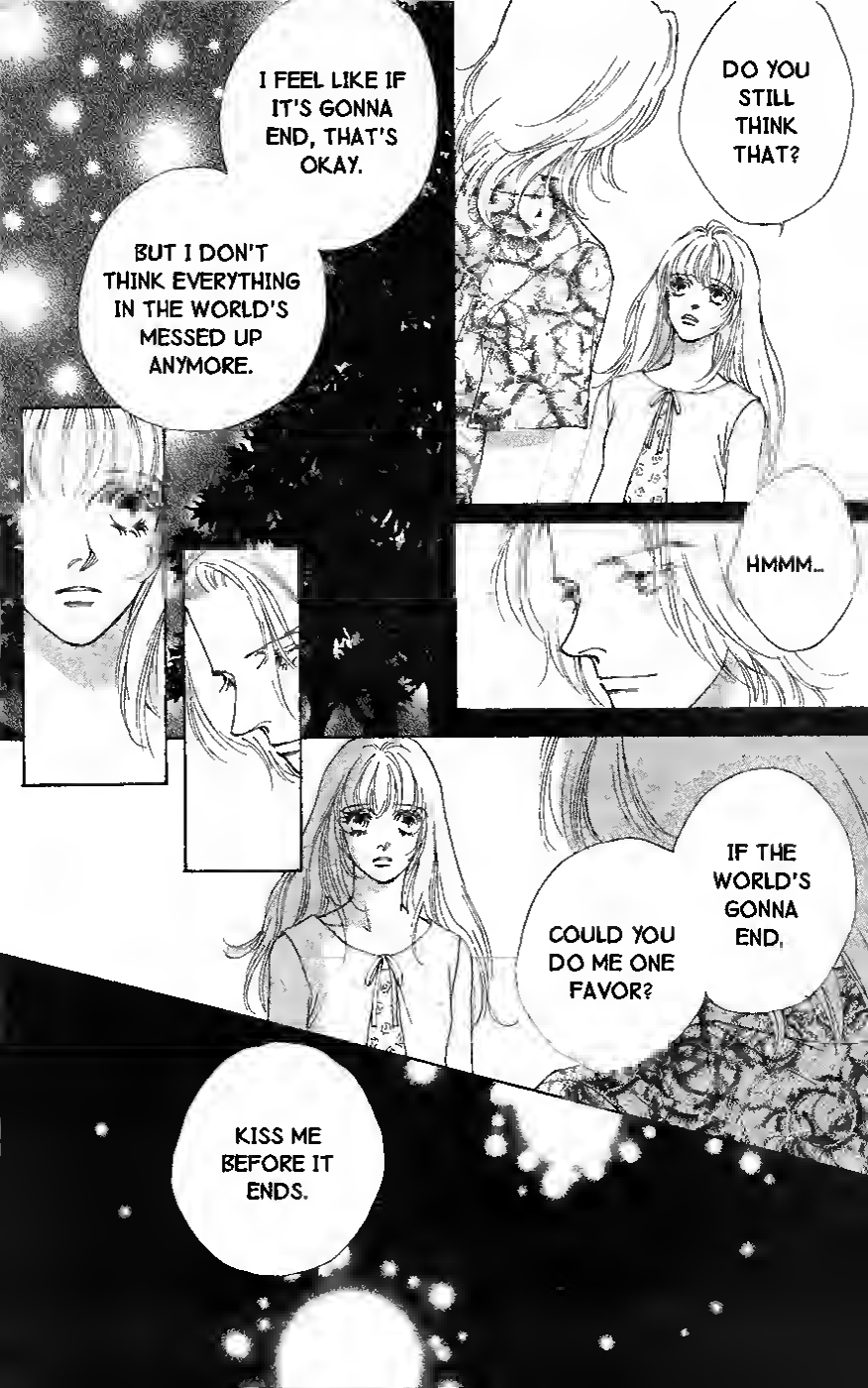
PHNIC HOCKEY
A
B
C
D
RANKING
AAAAHH! AAAAH!
THIS IS SCARY!
IT'S CRAZY!
INTENSE!
KRAAK

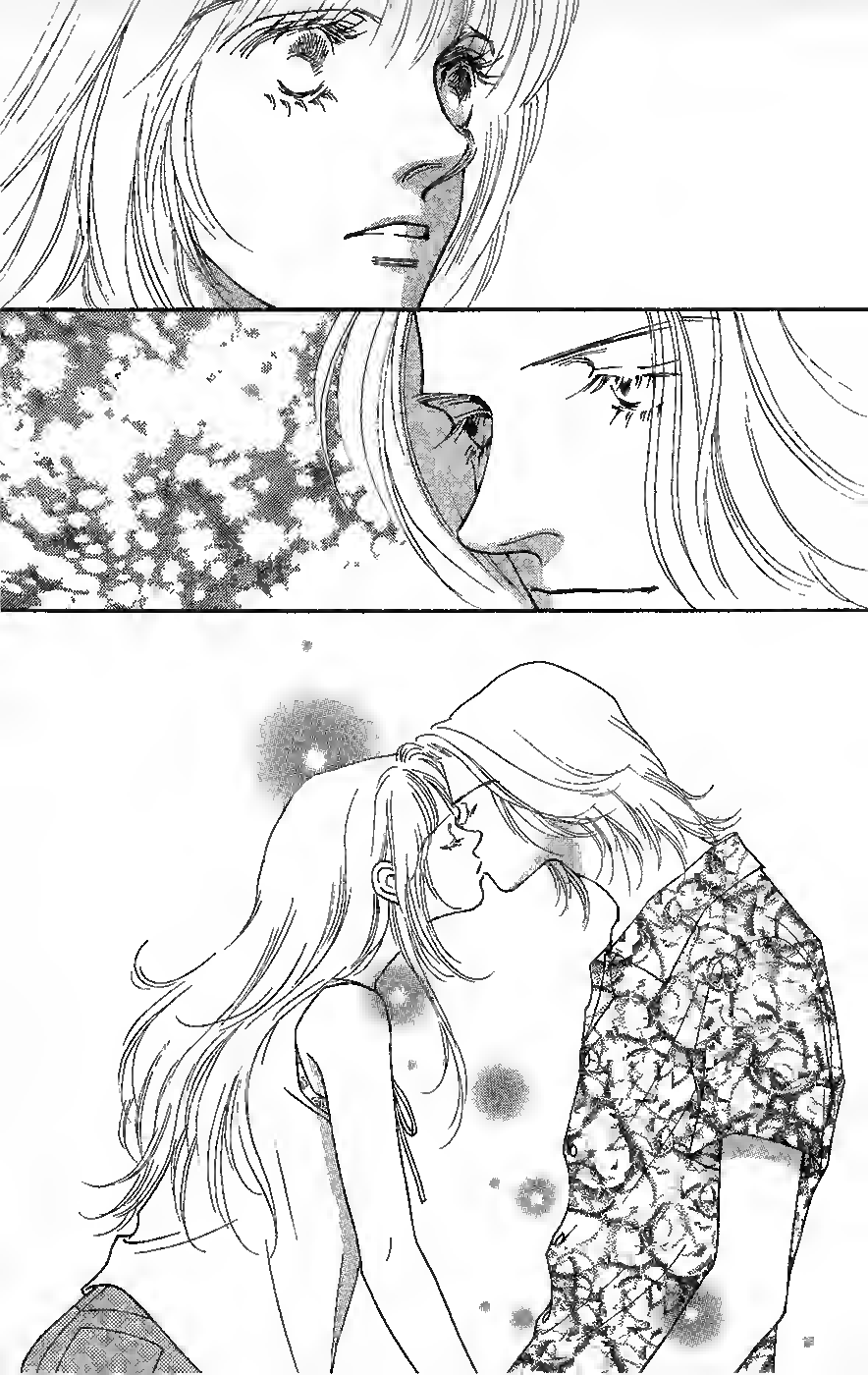

WOOOW, TATSUYA! AWESOME!
WHOAAA. I GOT IT! A DOUBLE!!
ATHLETICS
29
CROW
WOW, NOW WE'RE EXACTLY EVEN.
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S GET UP A LITTLE WITH THIS.
KRAK

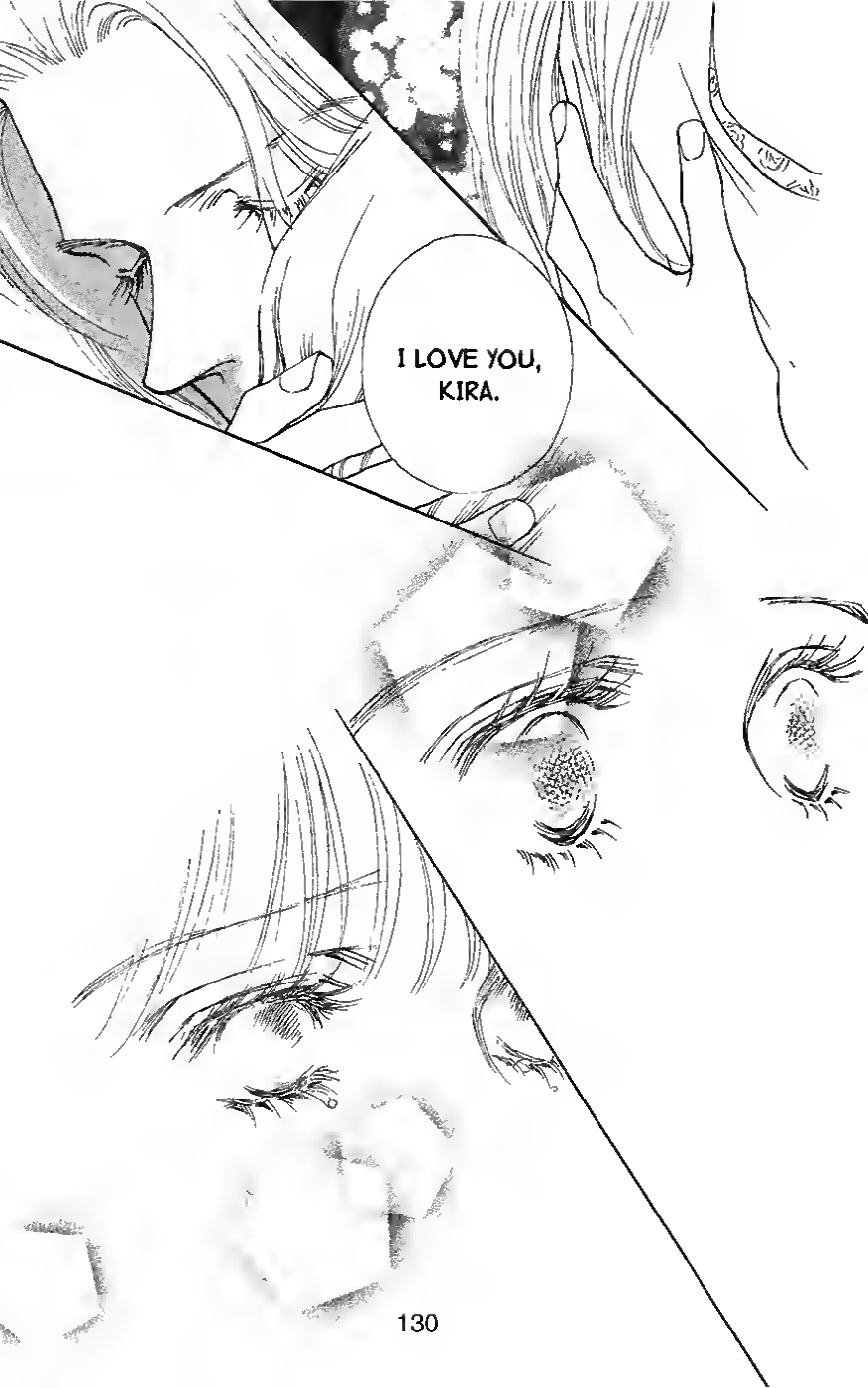

SHIT.
I'VE DONE IT NOW.
YAY! A SPLIT!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE!
HEY, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
OH, WHAT-EVER.
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
HE HAS NO FAITH IN ME!
I GUESS IT'S WITH GOOD REASON.
KADUNK
CLUK
IT'S A MIRACLE!
CLUK
ROLL ROLL ROLL

WHAT ARE YOU GLOATING FOR? KIRA WAS THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU!
WE WIN!!
SO IMMATURE
WHAT? YOU WANNA PLAY AGAIN?
YEAH, LET'S DO IT!

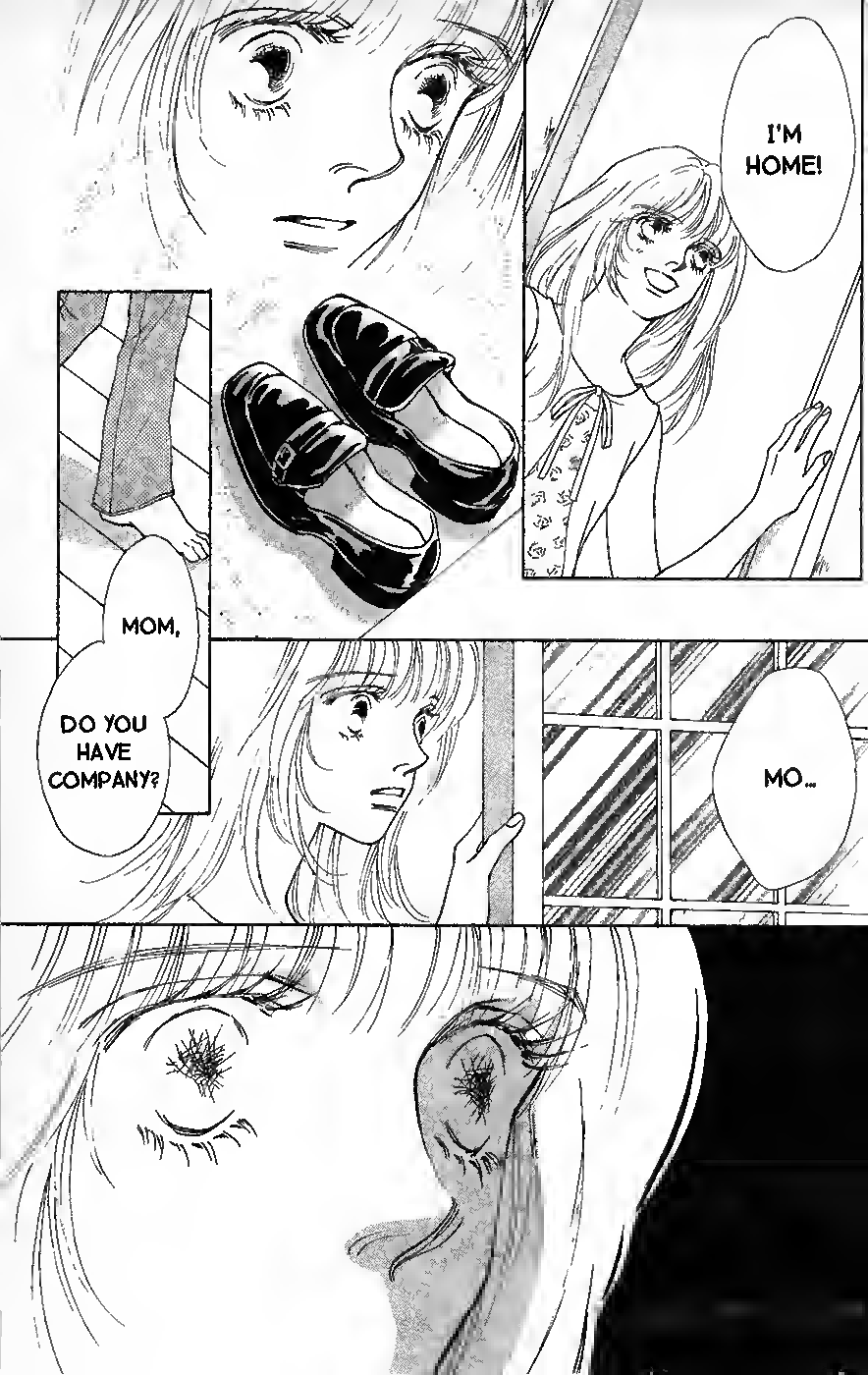
THAT WAS SO MUCH FUN.
IT WAS THE MOST FUN I'VE EVER HAD.
I DON'T EVEN CARE IF THE WORLD ENDS TOMORROW!
WHAT A DRAMA QUEEN.
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID ONCE?
THAT IF THE WORLD'S COMING TO AN END, THE SOONER THE BETTER..
..SINCE THE WORLD'S SO MESSED UP.

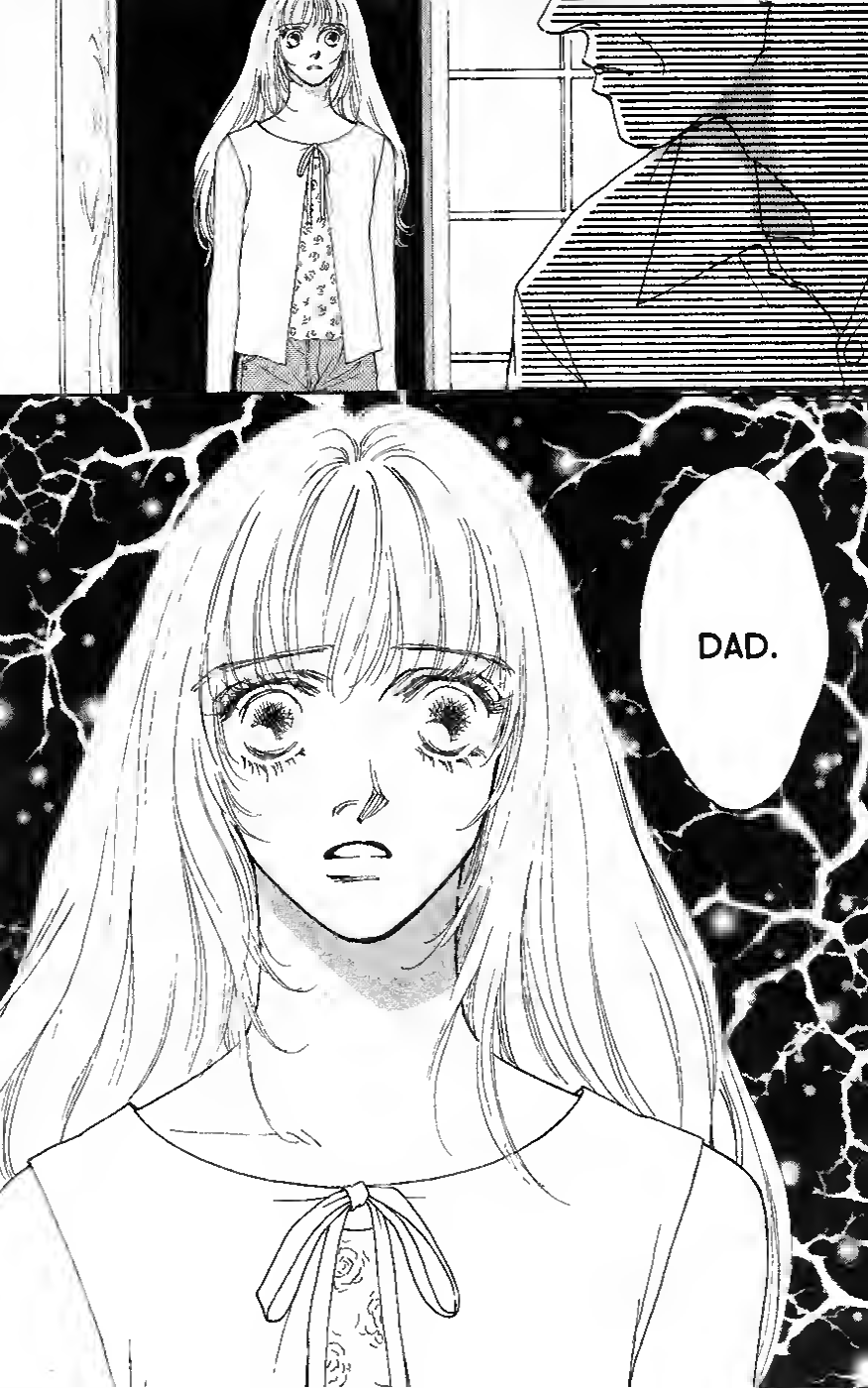

I FEEL LIKE IF IT'S GONNA END, THAT'S OKAY.
BUT I DON'T THINK EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD'S MESSED UP ANYMORE.
DO YOU STILL THINK THAT?
HMMM...
IF THE WORLD'S GONNA END,
COULD YOU DO ME ONE FAVOR?
KISS ME BEFORE IT ENDS.




I LOVE YOU, KIRA.

I LOVE YOU.

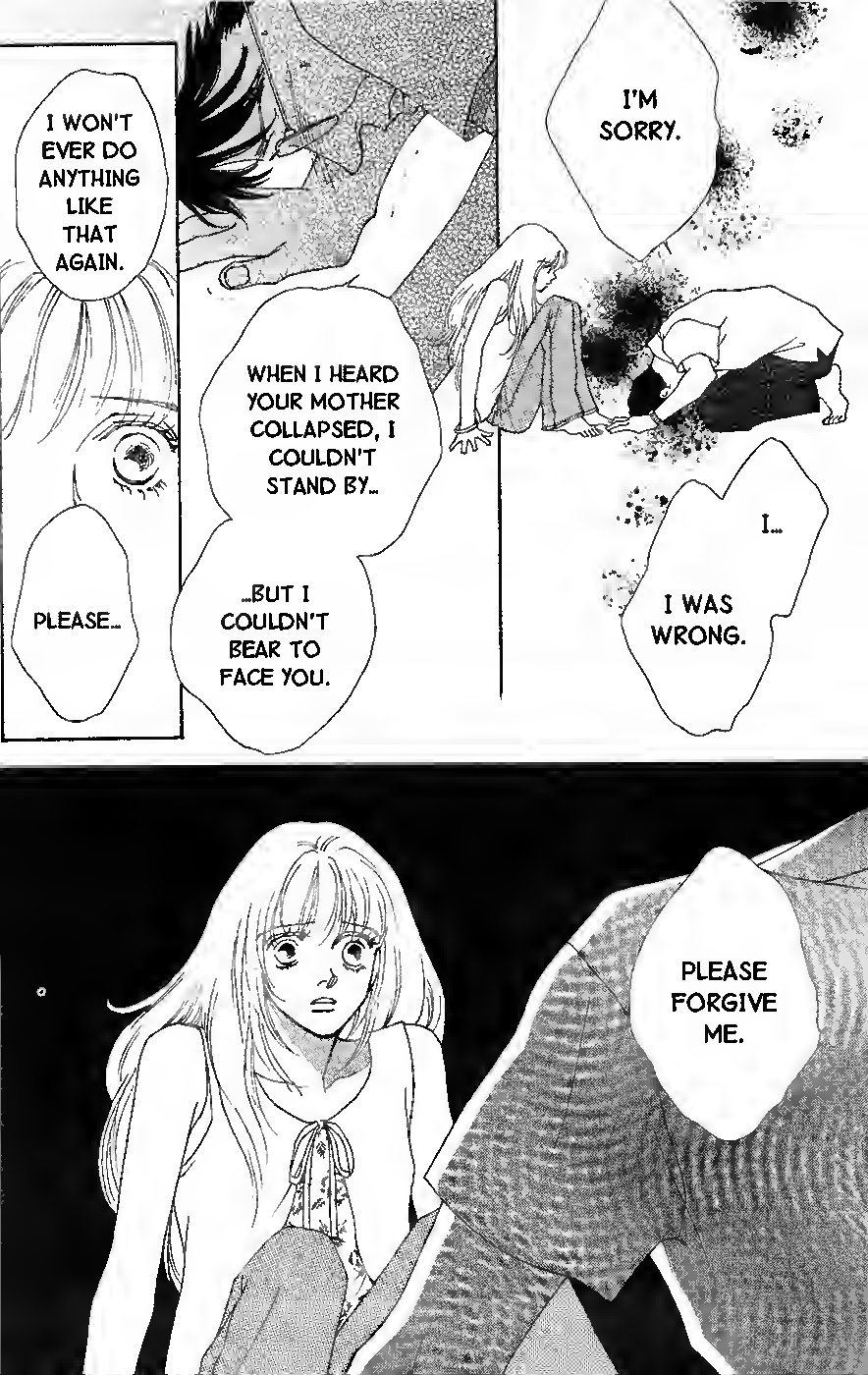

I'M HOME!
MOM, DO YOU HAVE COMPANY?
MO...


DAD.

THUD

THUK
KIRA...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
N...
KIRA?!
CRASH

NO.
DON'T...
KIRA!
DON'T COME NEAR ME!!!!!
SLAM
FORGIVE ME!

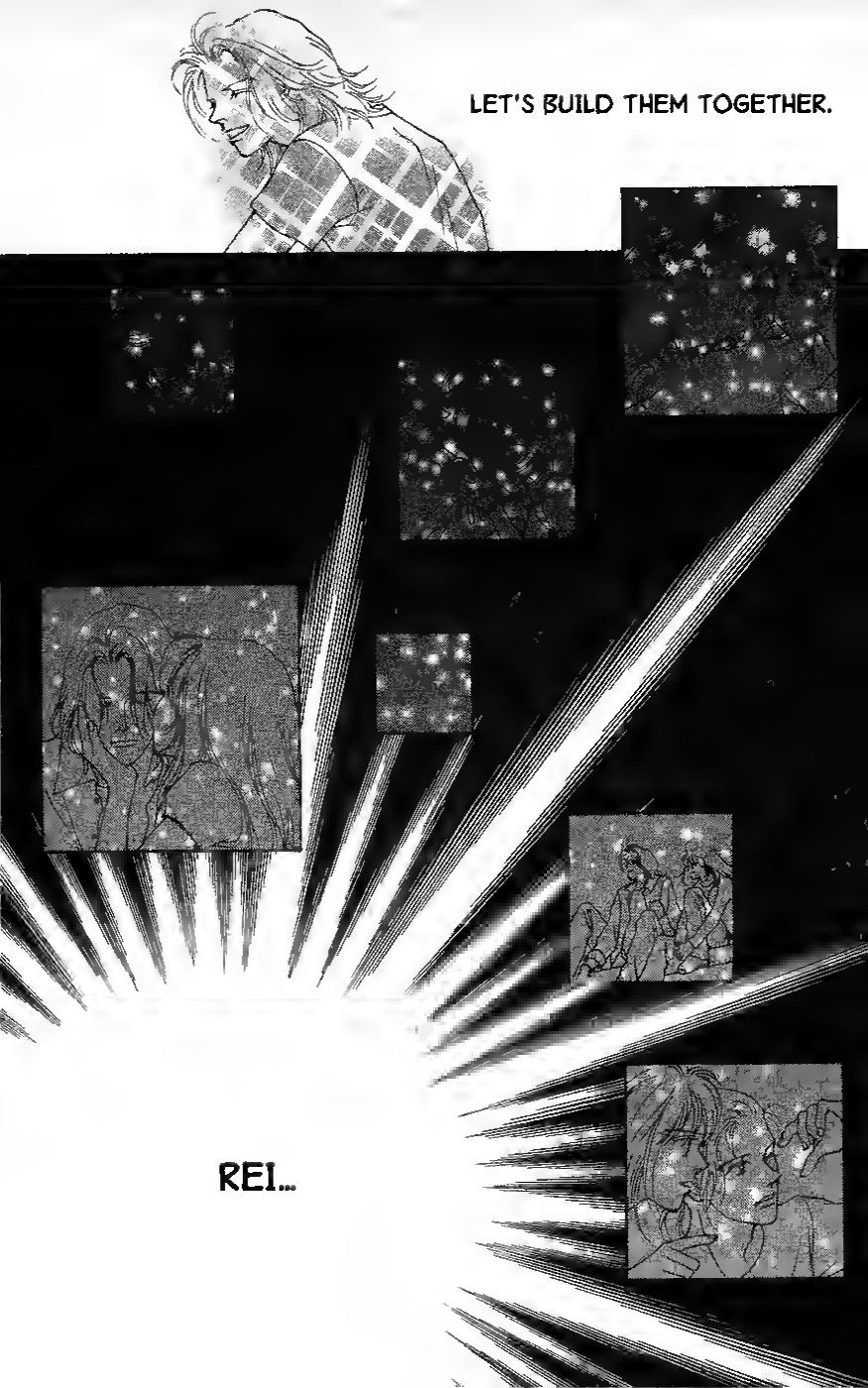

I'M SORRY.
I WON'T EVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN.
WHEN I HEARD YOUR MOTHER COLLAPSED, I COULDN'T STAND BY...
I...
I WAS WRONG.
PLEASE...
...BUT I COULDN'T BEAR TO FACE YOU.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

THE PLACE I WAS A MOMENT AGO...
...WAS NO LONGER WITHIN REACH.
IT WAS SOMEWHERE
ON A STAR FAR AWAY.
WHEN I FIRST WENT IN THE HOSPITAL,
YOUR STEPFATHER CAME TO VISIT ME.
AND HE BOWED HIS HEAD OVER AND OVER...
...AND CRIED AND APOLOGIZED.

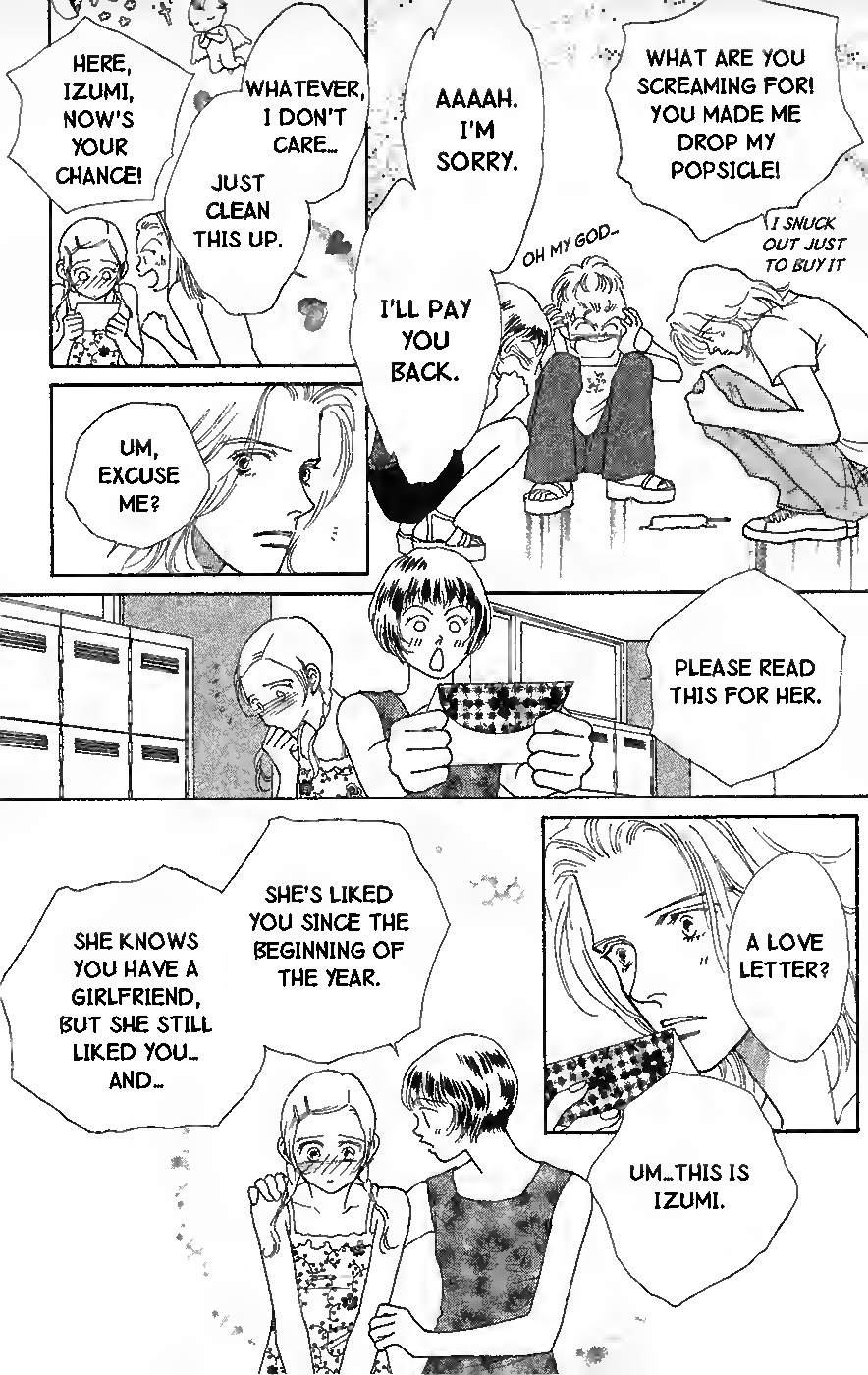
AND HE ASKED IF WE COULD GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY.
THAT IS...
...OF COURSE, AFTER CONSIDERING YOUR FEELINGS.
HE'S STILL FAMILY, OFFICIALLY.
WHEN YOU SAID YOUR BOSS COLLECTED MONEY FOR YOU...
...WAS IT REALLY DAD?
THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE I COULD RELY ON.

YOUR STEPFATHER WAS SO WORRIED HE CAME TO THE HOSPITAL ALMOST EVERY DAY.
HE TOLD ME NOT TO TELL YOU TO PROTECT YOU.
JUST LIKE BEING PROTECTED BY YUJI AOKI...
HE PROMISED NEVER TO DO ANYTHING LIKE HE DID BEFORE, SO...
THERE'S A FAIR AMOUNT OF SACRIFICE NECESSARY...
...TO MAINTAIN A FRONT OF HAPPINESS

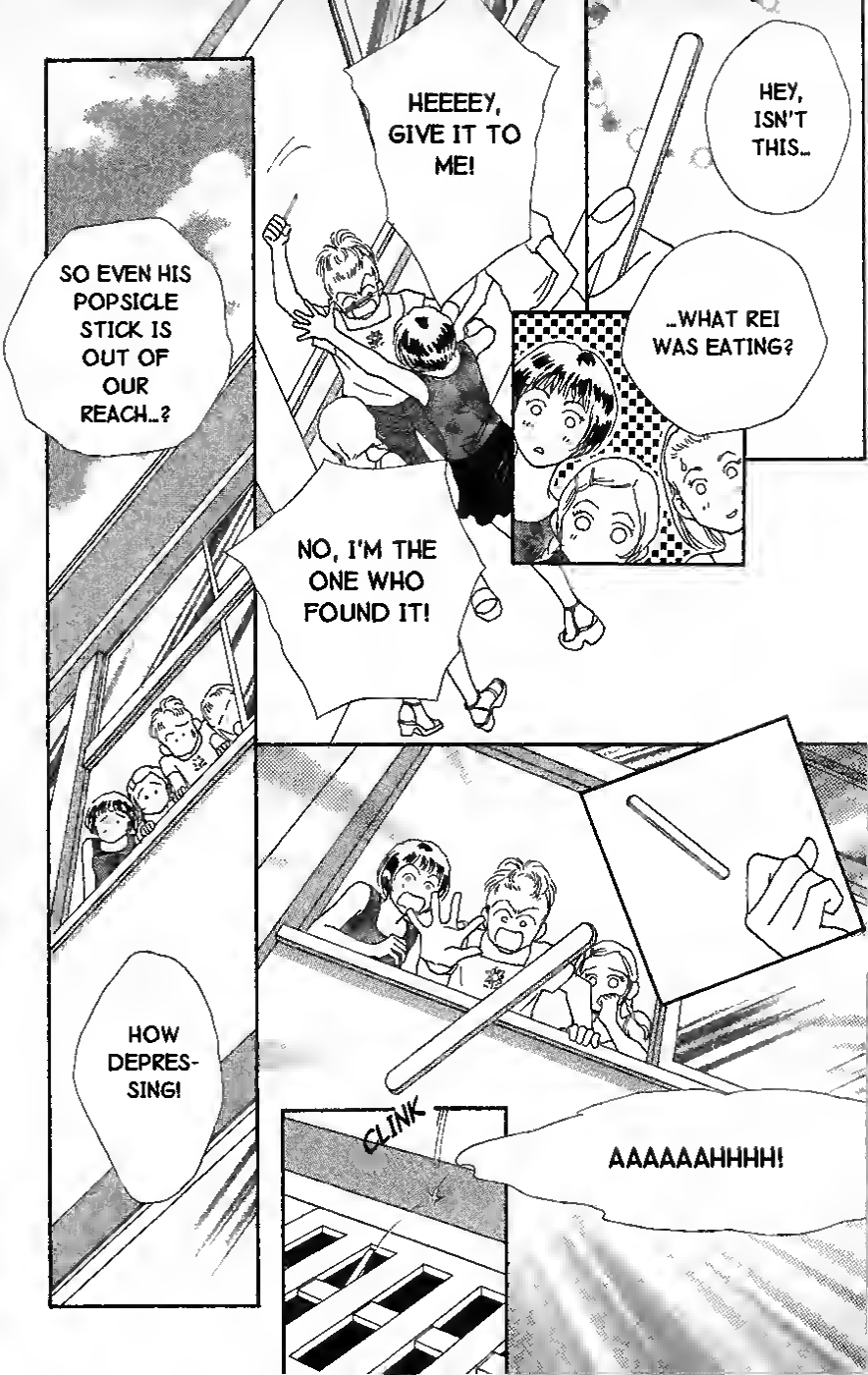
TO BE HONEST, I'VE REACHED MY LIMIT.
I CAN'T KEEP ON GOING UNLESS I CAN LEAN ON SOMEONE.


LET'S BUILD THEM TOGETHER.
REI...

!
REI'S GOING TO GET HERE ANY SECOND.
HURRY UP AND PUT IT IN.
BUMP
WAAH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT MY LOCKER?
SMUSH
AAAAAAHHH


HERE, IZUMI, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE...
JUST CLEAN THIS UP.
AAAAH. I'M SORRY.
I'LL PAY YOU BACK.
WHAT ARE YOU SCREAMING FOR! YOU MADE ME DROP MY POPSICLE!
OH MY GOD-
I SNUCK OUT JUST TO BUY IT
UM, EXCUSE ME?
PLEASE READ THIS FOR HER.
SHE KNOWS YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, BUT SHE STILL LIKED YOU... AND...
SHE'S LIKED YOU SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.
A LOVE LETTER?
UM...THIS IS IZUMI.

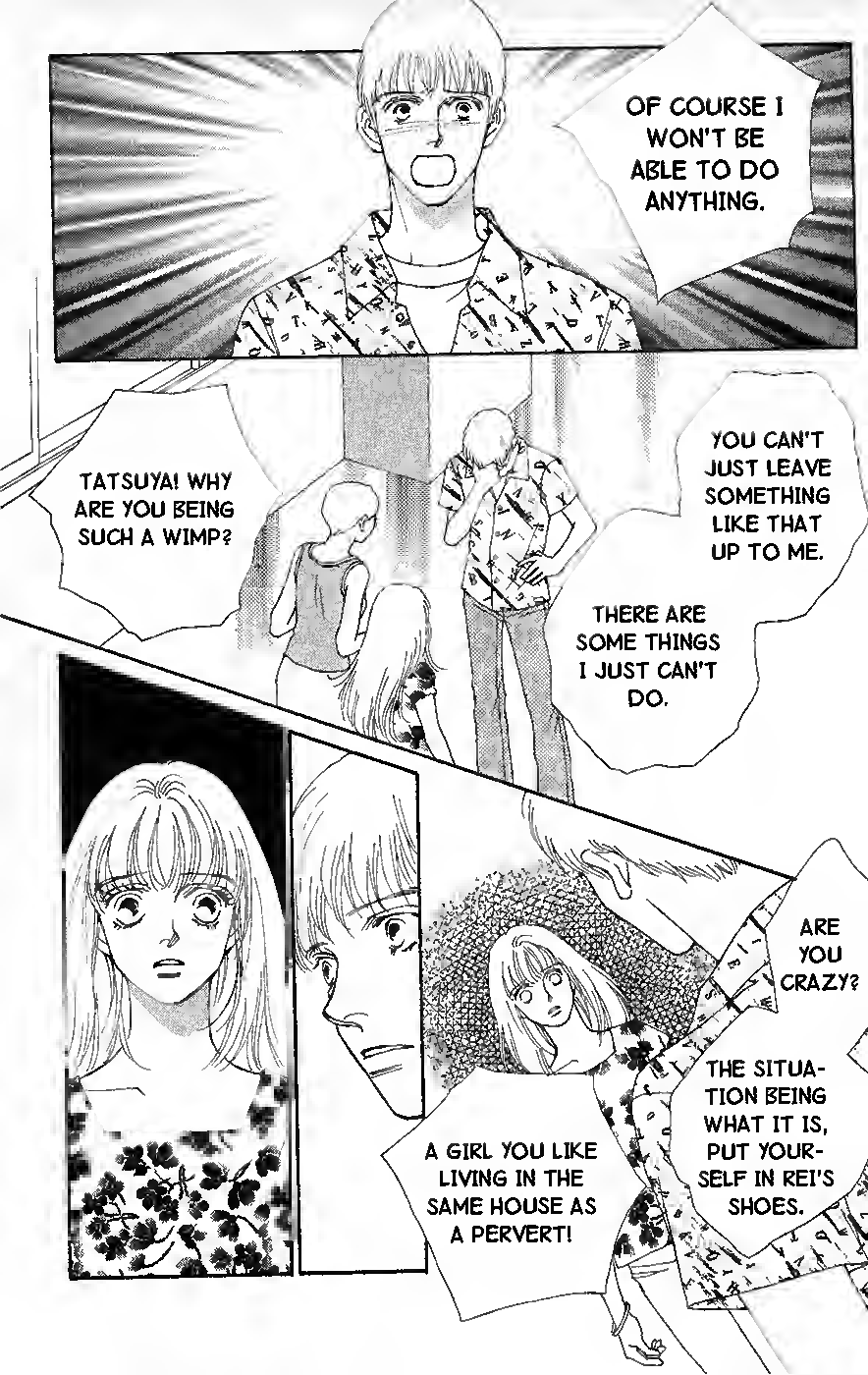
SWISH
SWISH
WOW, A FRESHMAN, HUH? CUTE.
YOU WANNA GO ON A DATE?
HUH!?
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT GIRL WAS SAYING..
SIGH
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GIVING YOU MY HEART.
WH... IS THAT OKAY!?
IT'S JUST A DATE.
SO NOTHING WILL TEAR THEM APART.
BUT HE'S BEEN WITH KIRA FOR OVER A YEAR NOW.
REI USED TO PLAY AROUND LIKE CRAZY BEFORE...
.....
HE'S SUPER-CUTE CLOSE UP.
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU TALKED TO HIM.


HEEEEY, GIVE IT TO ME!
HEY, ISN'T THIS..
..WHAT REI WAS EATING?
SO EVEN HIS POPSICLE STICK IS OUT OF OUR REACH..?
NO, I'M THE ONE WHO FOUND IT!
HOW DEPRES-SING!
CLINK
AAAAAAHHHH!

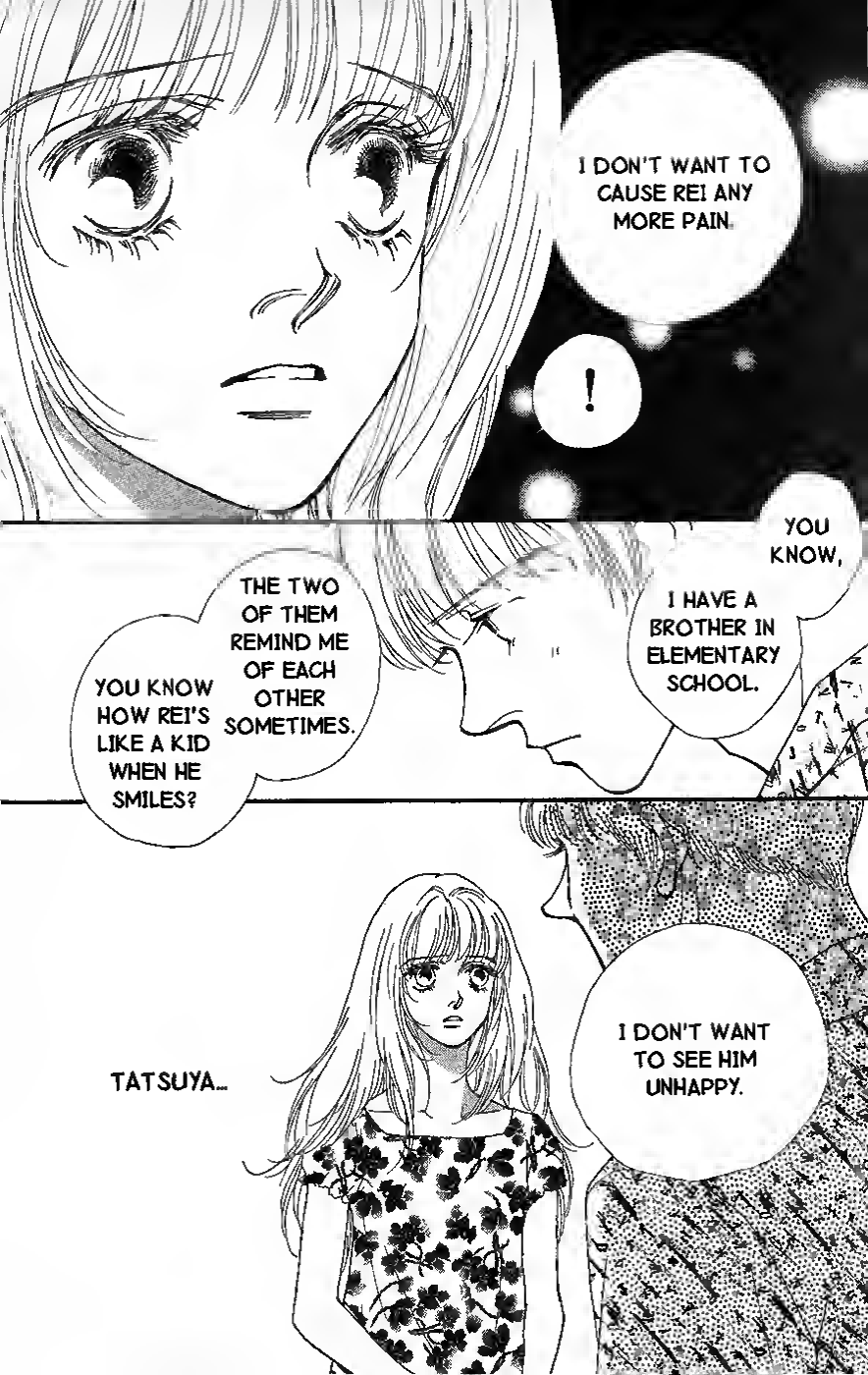
YOUR MOTHER CUT HER TIES WITH HIM, DIDN'T SHE?
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS?!
THEY NEVER OFFICIALLY DIVORCED.
YOU'RE LIVING WITH YOUR STEPFATHER AGAIN...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
THEY WERE JUST SEPARATED.
MY MOTHER TRIED TO GET A DIVORCE...
...BUT HE WOULDN'T ALLOW IT.
.....

YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
DID YOU TELL REI?
I KNOW I NEED TO.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
HE'LL UNDERSTAND IF I TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT.
NO...
...I HAVE TO MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND.
D...
DON'T DO IT.

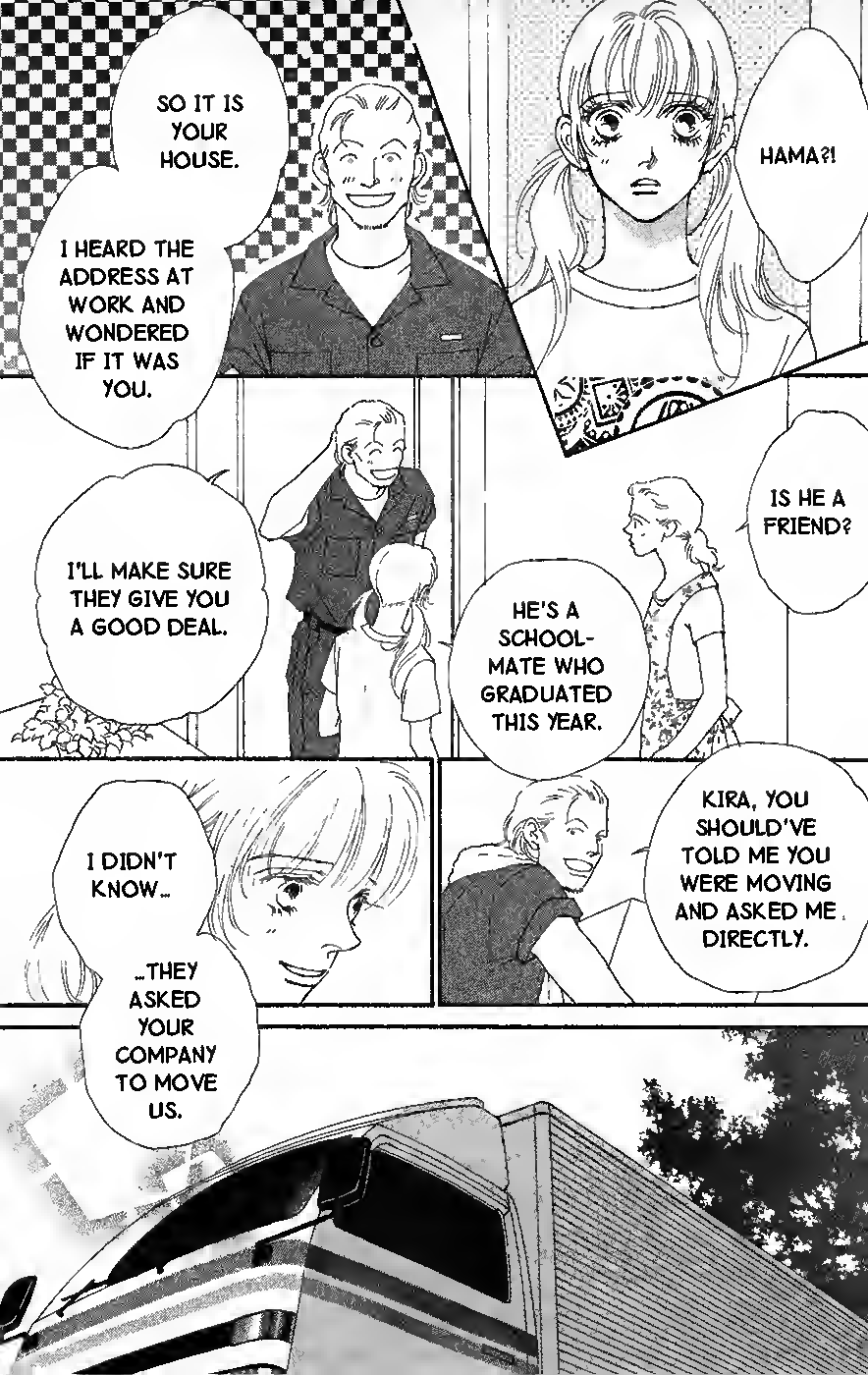
NO MATTER HOW YOU SAY IT...
...THERE'S NO WAY REI WOULD BE COOL WITH IT.
PROBABLY...
...BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
HEY, WHAT IF WE GET TATSUYA TO HELP?
AT LEAST TATSUYA'S A GUY, AND HE KNOWS REI REALLY WELL.
EVEN IF REI'S ABOUT TO LOSE IT, TATSUYA WILL BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING.


OF COURSE I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.
TATSUYA! WHY ARE YOU BEING SUCH A WIMP?
YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT UP TO ME.
THERE ARE SOME THINGS I JUST CAN'T DO.
ARE YOU CRAZY?
THE SITUATION BEING WHAT IT IS, PUT YOURSELF IN REI'S SHOES.
A GIRL YOU LIKE LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE AS A PERVERT!

HE TOLD ME HE WOULD NEVER...
...DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN.
I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE, WHEN ALL I COULD DO WAS CRY.
ARE YOU... REALLY OKAY WITH IT?
CAN YOU REALLY LIVE WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
OKAY.
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT, I WON'T SAY ANYTHING MORE.
BUT...

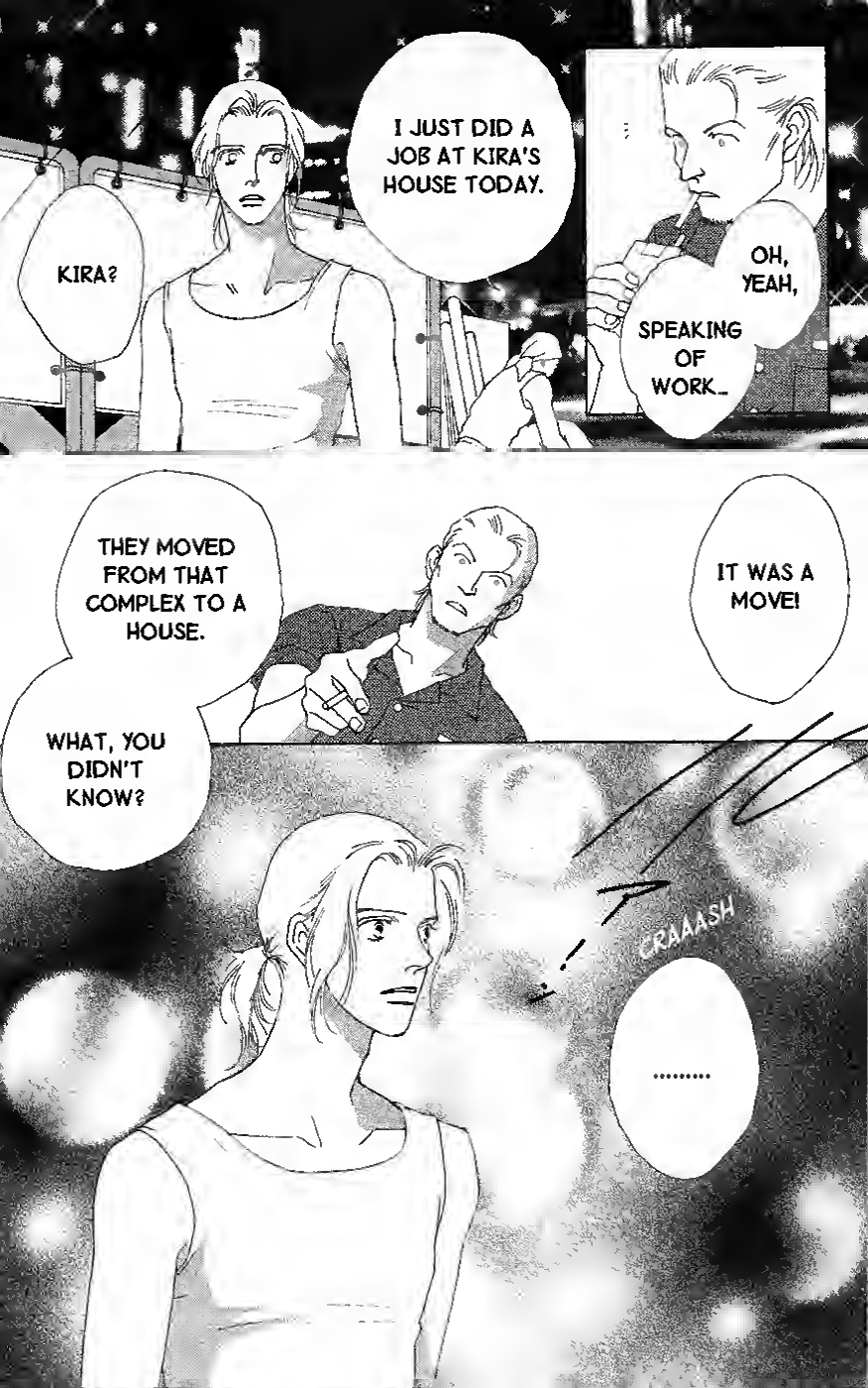

I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE REI ANY MORE PAIN.
!
YOU KNOW,
I HAVE A BROTHER IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
THE TWO OF THEM REMIND ME OF EACH OTHER SOMETIMES.
YOU KNOW HOW REI'S LIKE A KID WHEN HE SMILES?
I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM UNHAPPY.
TATSUYA...

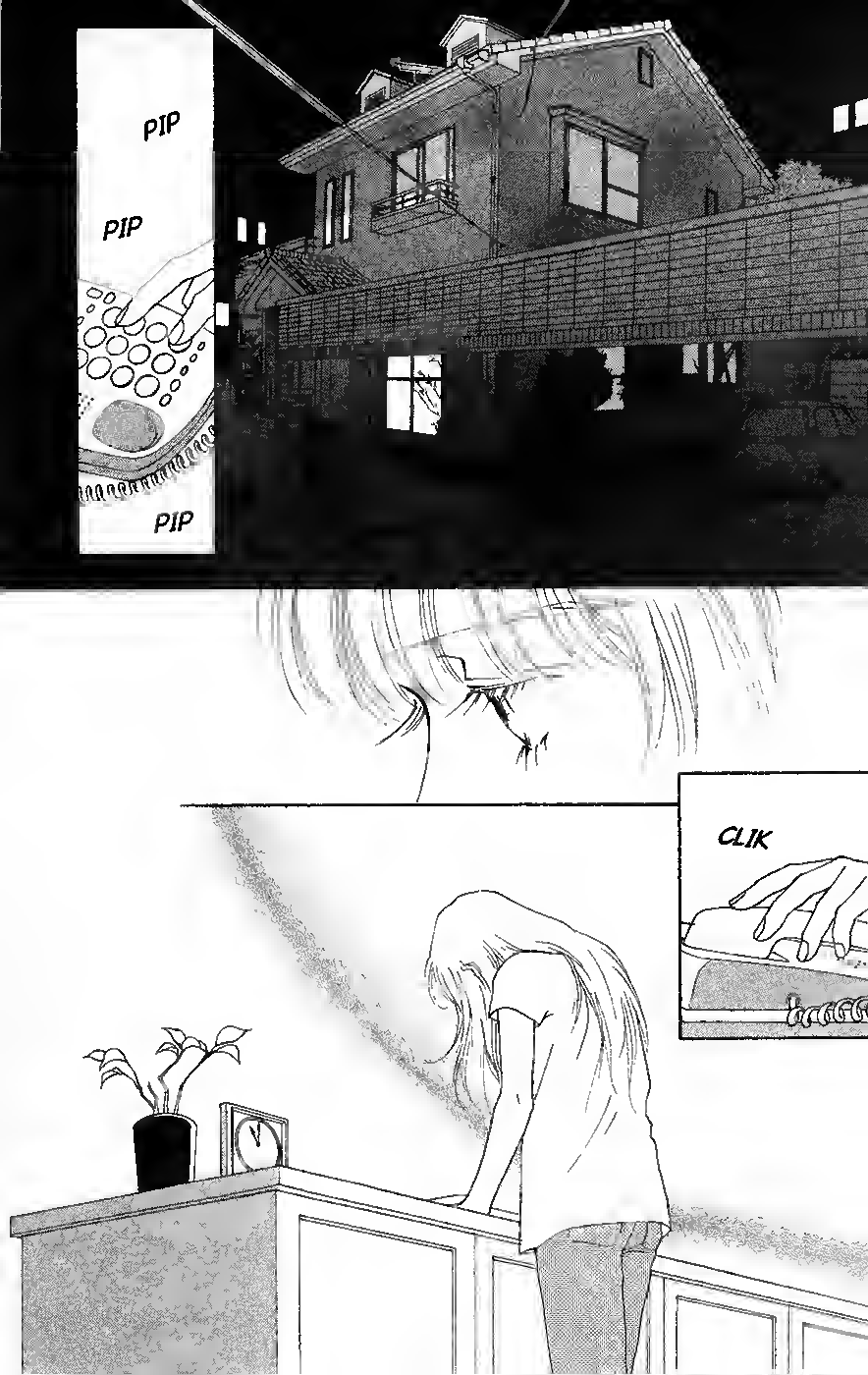
WHAAAT!? I'M OFF THAT DAY!
WHAT CAN I DO? THE JOB JUST CAME IN.
IT'S THE ASO HOUSE ON FOURTH STREET. THANKS!
HEEY, SHIGEO.
CAN YOU DO A MOVE ON SUNDAY?
ASO ON FOURTH STREET?
GOOD MORNING. I'M HERE FROM HAMAZAKI MOVERS.


SO IT IS YOUR HOUSE.
I HEARD THE ADDRESS AT WORK AND WONDERED IF IT WAS YOU.
HAMA?!
I'LL MAKE SURE THEY GIVE YOU A GOOD DEAL.
IS HE A FRIEND?
HE'S A SCHOOL-MATE WHO GRADUATED THIS YEAR.
I DIDN'T KNOW..
KIRA, YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME YOU WERE MOVING AND ASKED ME DIRECTLY.
..THEY ASKED YOUR COMPANY TO MOVE US.

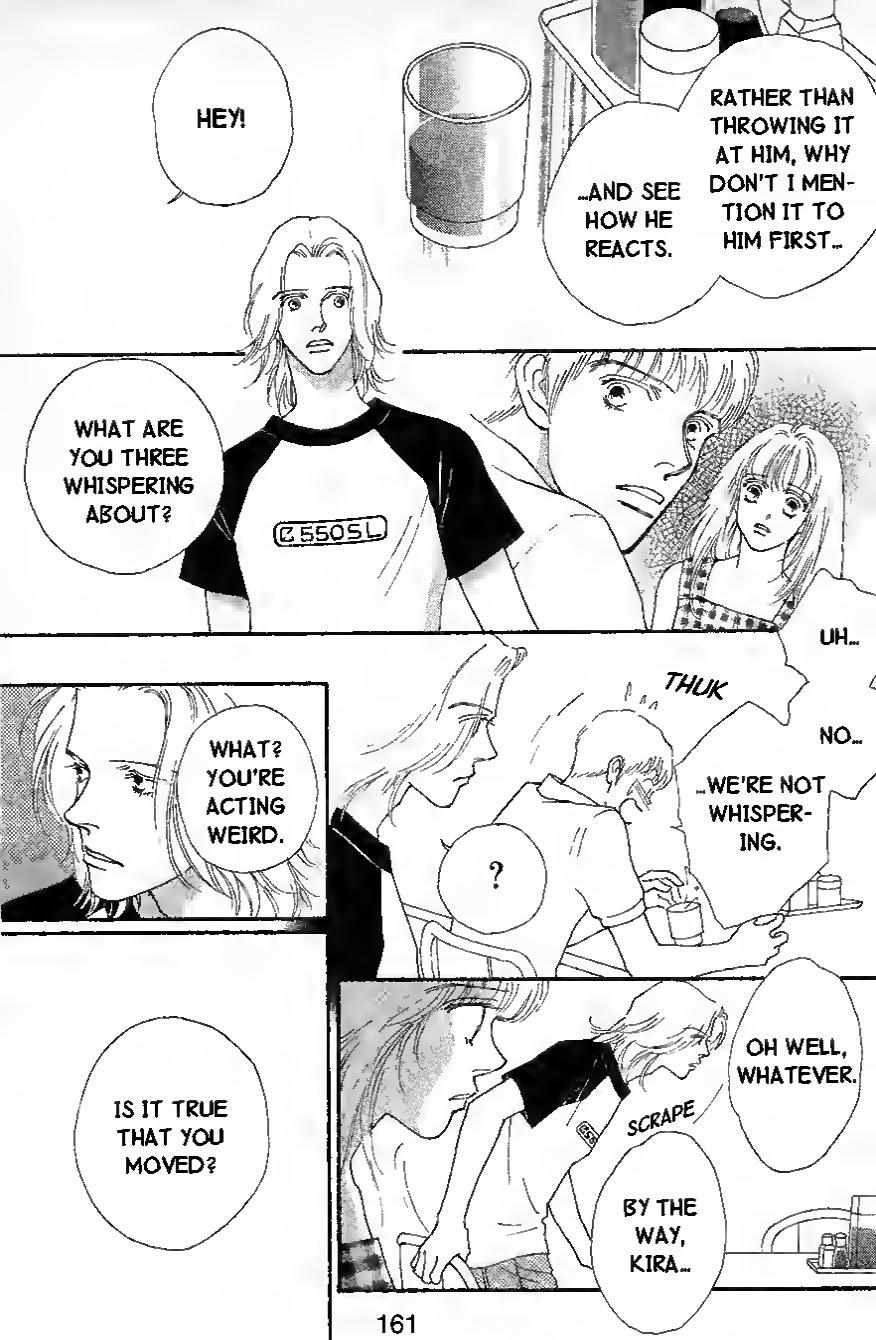
ALL RIGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT, IS THERE?
WELL, I'LL GET GOING THEN.
VRRRRRNNN
BEEEEEP

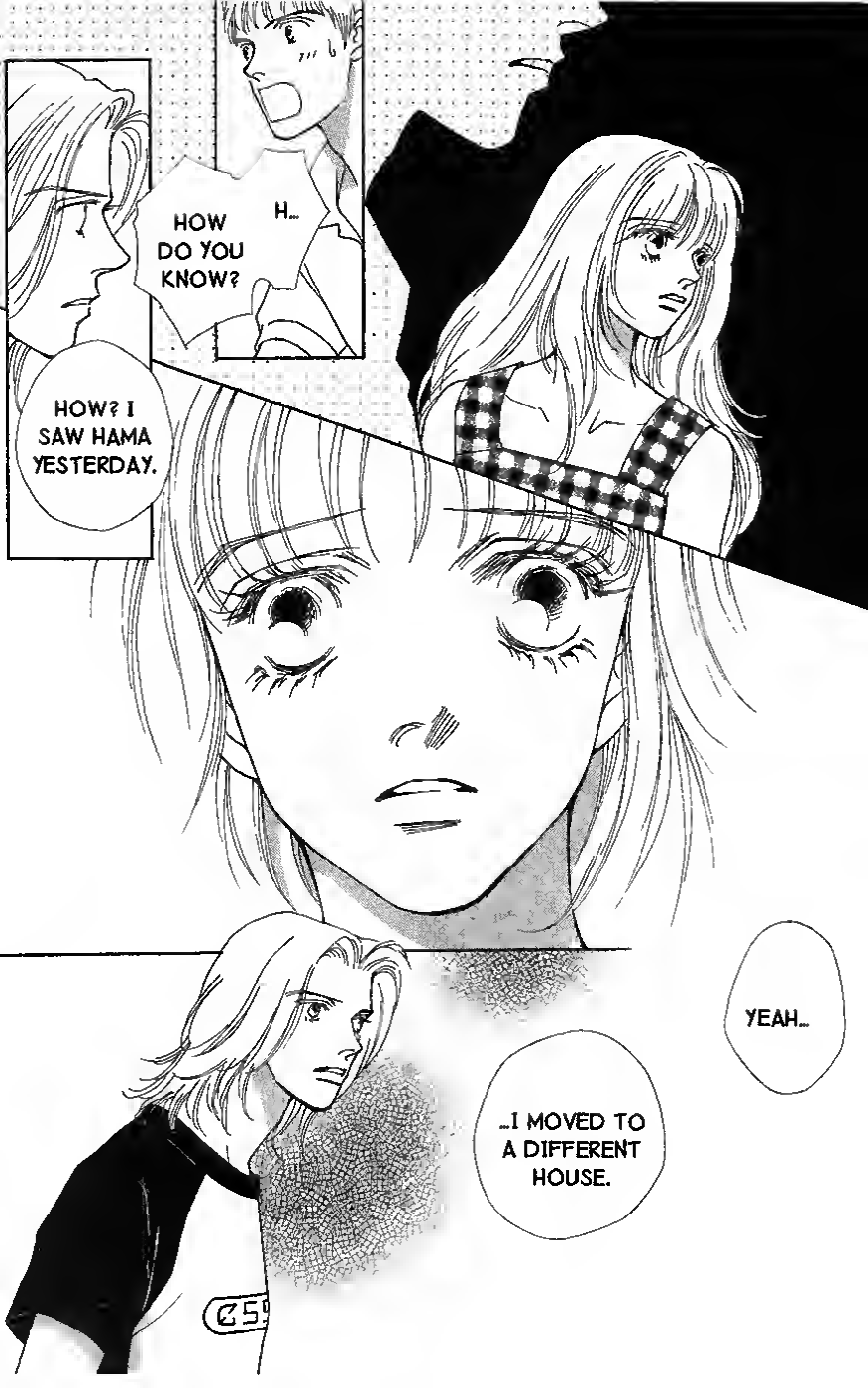
HONK
HONK
HEY, HAMA!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT IN THIS HEAT.
AND YOU AS A PROPER WORKING CITIZEN.
I HEARD HAMAZAKI MOVERS IS DOING WELL.
WELL, NOT THAT WELL...


KIRA?
I JUST DID A JOB AT KIRA'S HOUSE TODAY.
OH, YEAH, SPEAKING OF WORK...
THEY MOVED FROM THAT COMPLEX TO A HOUSE.
IT WAS A MOVE!
WHAT, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
CRAAASH
.....


PIP
PIP
PIP
CLIK

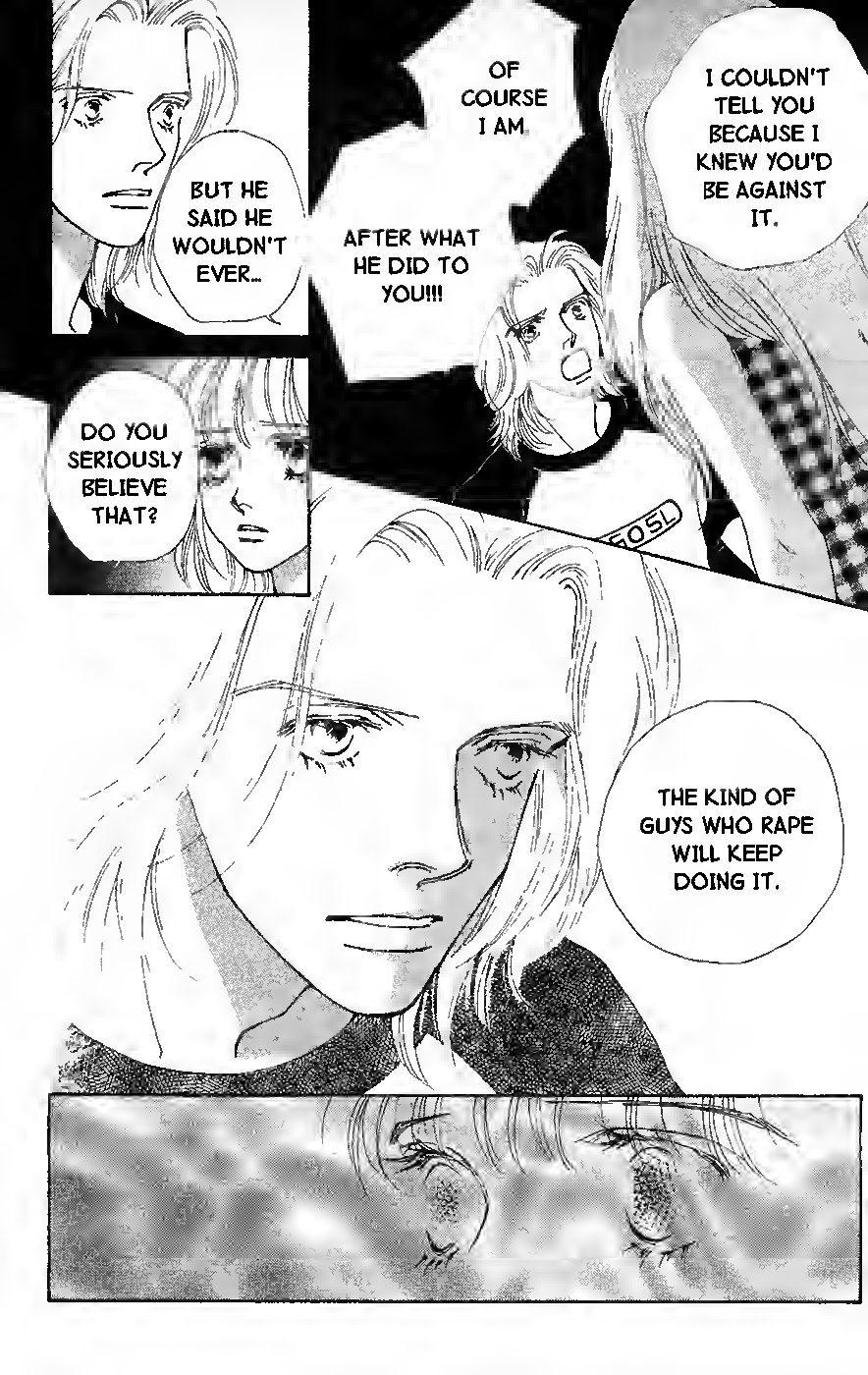
WHAT?!
YOU'RE TALKING TO REI TODAY?
YEAH...
...I CAN'T KEEP HIDING IT ANY LONGER.
I TRIED TO CALL HIM LAST NIGHT,
BUT I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER TO TALK IN PERSON.
LOOK
...I KNOW YOU CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.
BUT YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER THE TIMING.


HEY!
...AND SEE HOW HE REACTS.
RATHER THAN THROWING IT AT HIM, WHY DON'T I MENTION IT TO HIM FIRST...
WHAT ARE YOU THREE WHISPERING ABOUT?
UH...
NO...
THUK
...WE'RE NOT WHISPERING.
?
WHAT? YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD.
OH WELL, WHATEVER.
SCRAPE
BY THE WAY, KIRA...
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU MOVED?

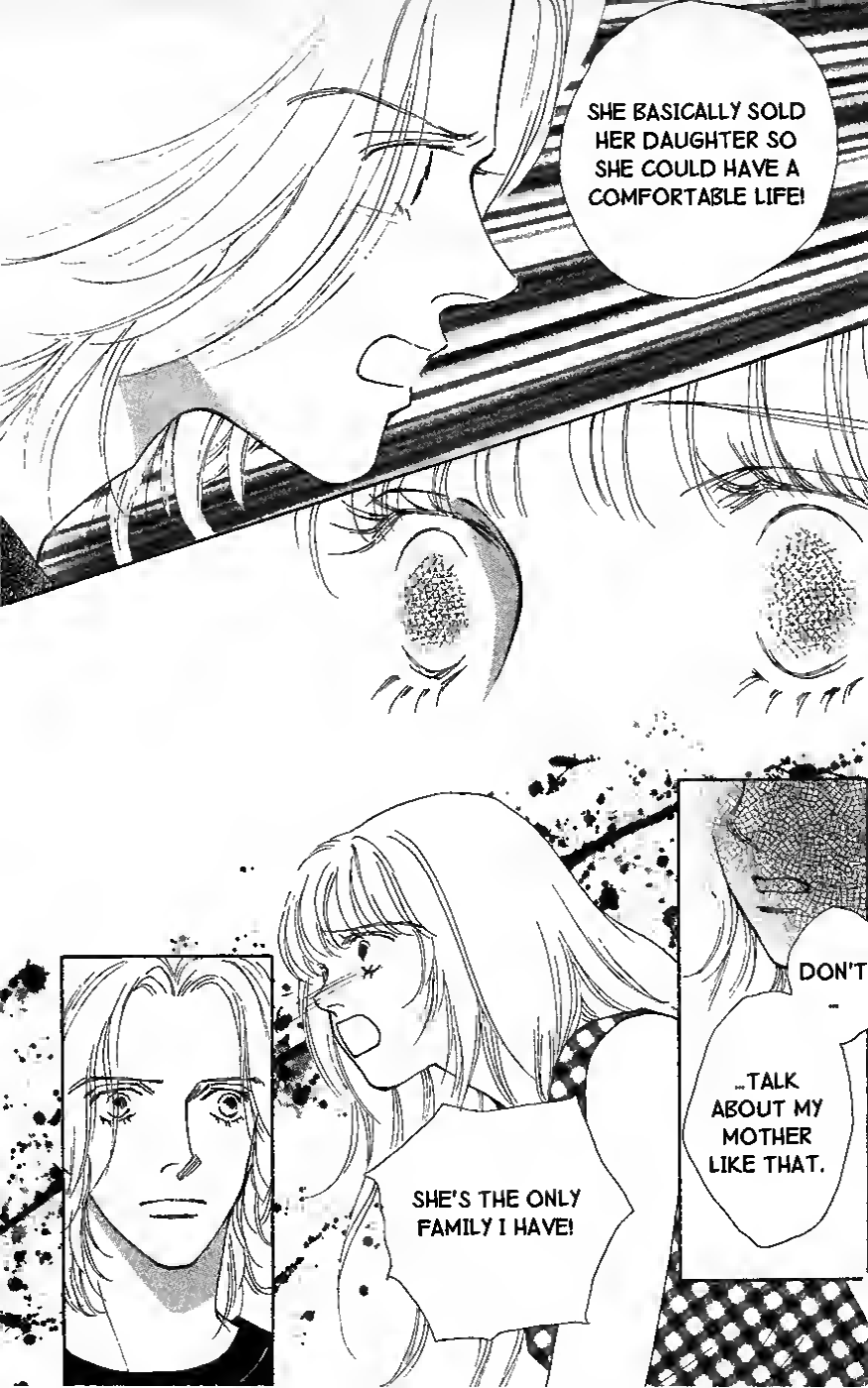

H...
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
HOW? I SAW HAMA YESTERDAY.
YEAH...
...I MOVED TO A DIFFERENT HOUSE.

I'M LIVING...
...WITH MY FATHER NOW.
WHAT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

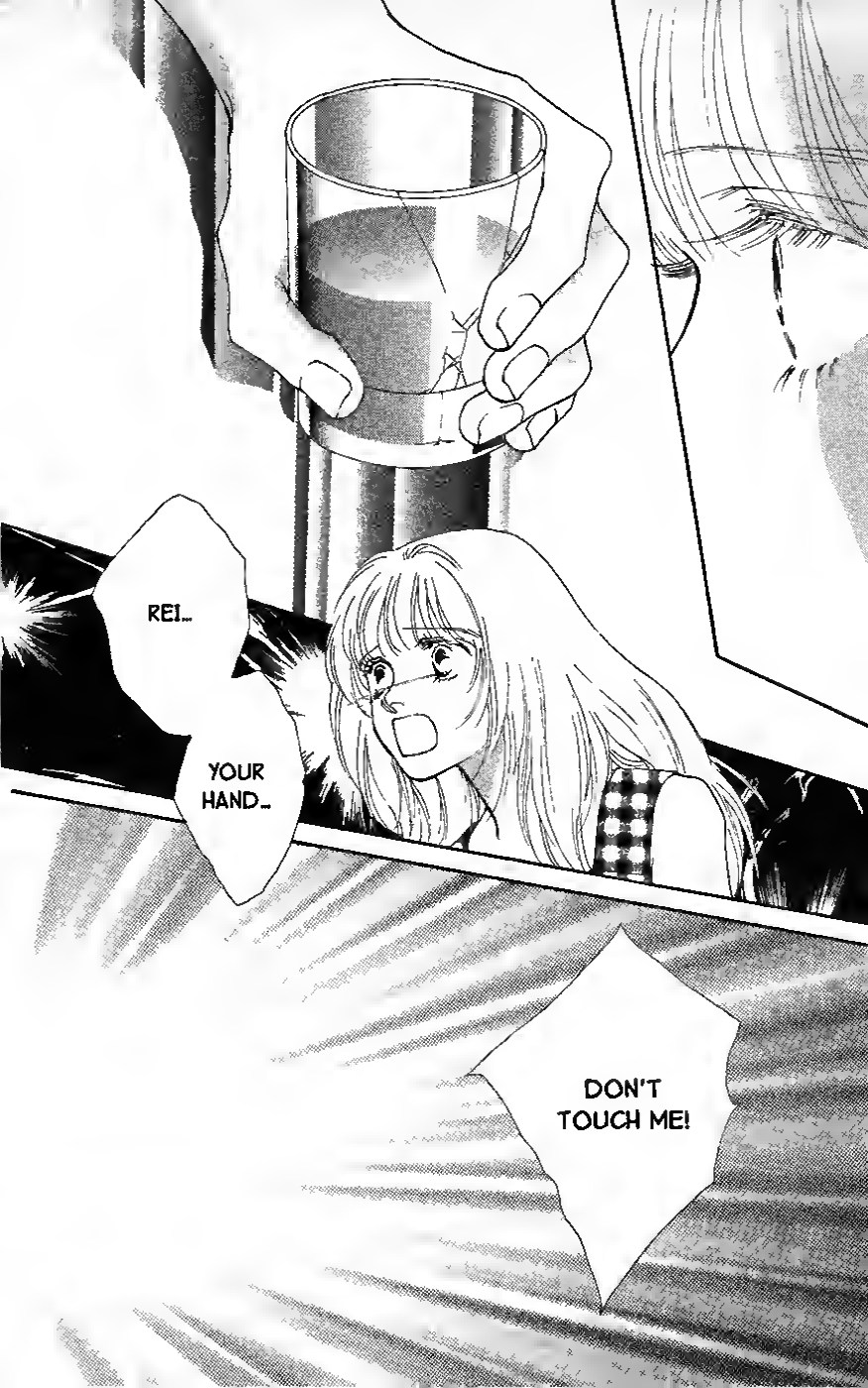
CAN YOU GO AWAY?
SO REI, KIRA'S MOTHER DIDN'T HAVE AN OFFICIAL DIVORCE, AND...
UM...
I'M LIVING WITH MY FATHER AGAIN.
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANY-THING UNTIL NOW?
BECAUSE...
...MY MOTHER CAN'T WORK, SO ALL WE CAN DO IS RELY ON HIM.
I'M AT MY LIMIT...


I COULDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D BE AGAINST IT.
OF COURSE I AM.
AFTER WHAT HE DID TO YOU!!!
BUT HE SAID HE WOULDN'T EVER...
DO YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT?
THE KIND OF GUYS WHO RAPE WILL KEEP DOING IT.

GET OUT OF THAT HOUSE NOW.
YOU HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHAT... WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO GO?
COME TO MY PLACE.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE WE'RE BOTH STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.
NO ONE WOULD ALLOW IT.
WHO CARES ABOUT ANYONE ELSE?!
SLAM
DON'T TALK CRAZY!
ANYWAY, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE MY MOTHER.
YOUR MOTHER ENDED UP CHOOSING HER RAPIST HUSBAND OVER YOU.


SHE BASICALLY SOLD HER DAUGHTER SO SHE COULD HAVE A COMFORTABLE LIFE!
DON'T
...TALK ABOUT MY MOTHER LIKE THAT.
SHE'S THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE!

MY FATHER...
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S ALL BAD.
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THE THREE OF US WERE HAPPY.
HE WAS KIND AT FIRST AND A GOOD FATHER.
HE TOOK REALLY GOOD CARE OF US.
CRAAAAK


REI...
YOUR HAND...
DON'T TOUCH ME!

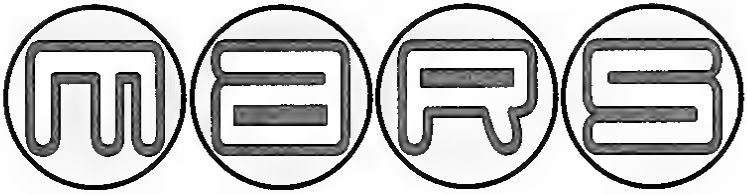
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU ANYMORE!

REI!
CLUNK
REI, WAIT UP!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S HOLDING ONTO A FAMILY LIKE THAT.
WAIT UP.
CALM DOWN.

HER MOTHER IS KIRA'S ONLY FAMILY.
IF SHE LOSES HER MOTHER, SHE'LL BE ALL ALONE.
IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE THAT YOU'RE ANGRY.
BUT...YOU'RE TELLING HER TO LOSE HER MOTHER.
I'M ALONE, TOO.
C550SL

TO BE CONTINUED

Coming Soon...



Volume Nine

The unthinkable has happened! Rei and Kira have finally broken up and it's the talk of the town. Kira can only stand by helplessly as Rei walks out of her life. Though Rei feigns indifference as he walks into the arms of waiting suitors, he begins to realize that he may have been too hasty in his decision to break up. Kira struggles to come to grips with being alone and also questions what she has done. Following her friends' advice, Kira decides to try and make up with Rei before it's too late, but he is nowhere to be found. With her family life also suffering, Kira has no idea where to turn. Find out what happens next in this nail-biting volume of Mars!

100% AUTHENTIC MANGA

On The Move

Is Kiro ond Rei's love built to last? Mixed signols obaund in this on-ogoin, off-ogain relationship. Every time Rei tries ta make o move on Kiro, she freaks and pushes him owoy. Finolly, Rei guesses she's hiding o horrible secret from her post. Whot could it be?! Meanwhile, Kiro's mother gets out af the hospitol – ond tells Kiro they're moving. When Rei finds out, he tells Kira ta come live with him, but she doesn't want ta leave her mom's side. Could this be the end of Rei and Kira's lave?

An epic romance that spans 15 volumes, MARS is ane af Jopon's most populor camics for teen girls ever.

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